

Mahfouz stabbed, hospitalised

CAIRO (AFP) — A man stabbed Nobel prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz in the neck here Friday, police said. The Egyptian writer was rushed to hospital where his condition was later reported to be satisfactory. A doctor at the hospital said the 83-year-old writer had undergone surgery and his bleeding had stopped. Mr. Mahfouz was getting out of a car outside his Cairo home when a man came up and stabbed him in the neck, Dr. Heba Al Sirguani said. His home is only 20 metres from a police hospital and he was rushed there for surgery. Dr. Sirguani said Mr. Mahfouz was "walking and fully conscious" when he arrived in hospital. The writer was to be transferred to the intensive care ward, Dr. Sirguani said police had recovered the knife used by the assailant at the scene. Mr. Mahfouz won the Nobel prize almost six years ago to the day. Critics consider him the master of the modern Egyptian novel. A police spokesman said the attack happened as Mr. Mahfouz was returning to his home in the Agouza district of western Cairo from the offices of the Egyptian daily Al Ahram.

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U.S., Russia clash over Gulf crisis

Iraq ready to recognise Kuwait in return for end to sanctions; Iraq-Russia statement on Kuwait
U.S. criticises Kozyrev mediation, presses anti-Iraq measures

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES and Russia were at odds Friday over how to handle the Iraqi crisis, with Russia rejecting a U.S. call for an early U.N. Security Council vote on new measures against Iraq.

The U.S. delegation insisted on a vote Saturday on a resolution calling on Baghdad to pull back troops from the border with Kuwait, and barring Iraq from any future buildup in the area, diplomats said.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev argued earlier Friday that Iraq had now in principle recognised Kuwait, making the steps unnecessary.

But representatives from the United States and Britain said Iraq's moves to date were not enough to lift U.N. sanctions.

In a joint statement with Russia on Thursday, Iraq said it was prepared to recognise Kuwait and their common border set by the United Nations after the 1991 Gulf war — apparently with the understanding the U.N. embargo against it would be eased.

"Iraq has just recognised the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait, and this decision must now be endorsed by the United Nations," Mr. Kozyrev told reporters upon arriving in Kuwait City from talks in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (right) meets with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in Baghdad late Thursday (AFP photo)

Russia has said it will not vote before Sunday, when Mr. Kozyrev is scheduled to arrive to explain to the council the Iraqi-Russian proposal for easing sanctions in return for Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's border.

Moscow has threatened to use its veto if Washington insists on the earlier vote, the diplomats said.

Mr. Kozyrev will arrive in New York early Sunday instead of that night, Russian Charge D'affaires Vasily Sidorov said.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister

Tareq Aziz was to arrive in New York on another flight, Mr. Sidorov told reporters at U.N. headquarters.

He said Russia was consulting with the other four permanent council members "on the way to handle this (Iraqi) question."

Mr. Sidorov did not rule out the possibility that Mr. Kozyrev could address the council Sunday, instead of Monday as planned. He made it clear that Moscow did not want the council to take any action before Mr.

Kozyrev could participate.

In Kuwait, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry threatened Iraq with military action if Baghdad did not withdraw more than a division of elite Republican Guard troops from Iraq's southern border with Kuwait.

"We are talking about military action. But I won't go beyond that and describe what form of military action," he said in the most direct U.S. threat in a crisis involving Washington's demands for Iraq to end its buildup of forces near the

emirate that it invaded in 1990.

The United States has already moved hundreds of warplanes, warships with Tomahawk cruise missiles and thousands of troops to the Gulf since tensions rose over the Iraqi troop buildup.

Mr. Perry told reporters flying with him to Kuwait from Dahrin in Saudi Arabia that U.S. intelligence indicated on Friday that the Republican guard troops had stopped some 70 kilometres south of the 32nd Parallel instead of following other Iraqi troops northwards out of the area.

"It looks like they might be digging in there. A more optimistic possibility is that they are just stopping there overnight," the secretary said.

In a statement on arrival in Kuwait on the second day of a three-day Gulf visit, Mr. Perry said the United States would not slow down its own military deployment or begin removing troops if the Republican Guards remained in place.

"If the Iraqis remain in the south, we will expand our current deployment, and we will consult our allies about the additional application of force as an appropriate response to the threat posed by Iraq," he said.

The secretary said on Thursday that a U.S. buildup in the region would be halted at 30,000 troops within a

week and those troops could begin moving out of the Gulf shortly — but only after Iraq completed its withdrawal from the border.

Mr. Perry said it would be clear in a day or so whether Iraq intended to move the troops northwards or not.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, speaking after a tour of the Middle East, brushed aside the Russian sponsored Iraqi offer to recognise Kuwait in exchange for the lifting of U.N. sanctions.

"Iraq's efforts to intimidate Kuwait and the United Nations must not be rewarded," Mr. Christopher said.

"One week after Saddam again plunged the world into crisis, any consideration of sanctions relief is dangerously misguided," he said on a stop-over in Germany.

Mr. Christopher said the Russian role in drafting the proposal was "misguided and constitutes an improper reward."

"What he did is not in the long-term interests of security," Mr. Christopher said, referring to Mr. Kozyrev.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told the BBC the offer was "inadequate."

France wary of Iraqi pledge

DOHA (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Friday that Iraq's pledge to recognise Kuwait was not enough to lift U.N. sanctions against Baghdad. Speaking to journalists accompanying him on a flight to Doha, the capital of Qatar, Mr. Juppe said that by taking Iraq's word, "we would slip into the same situation as in the past." Mr. Juppe said that if Iraq stated unequivocally that it recognised Kuwait, "that would be a major development." But "in the absence of some new gesture, we have not taken any big step toward lifting the embargo," said Mr. Juppe, here on the first leg of a tour that will also take him to the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Kuwait. Mr. Juppe's sceptical tone contrasted with remarks Wednesday in which he appeared to go easier on Iraq, cautioning against "overreacting" to Iraq's deployment of 80,000 troops near the border with Kuwait. Mr. Juppe said Friday that the U.N. members were nearing agreement on a resolution on the new Gulf crisis. But he said France and Russia, unlike the United States, were opposed to tightening sanctions against Iraq.

"Iraq officially announced that at 21H00 (19H00 GMT) on 12 October 1994, it completed the movement of its forces to the rear. Russia greatly valued this step by the Iraqi side."

"Iraq stressed its readiness to solve the issue of recognising Kuwait's sovereignty and borders which were decided according to U.N. Security Council Resolution 833 in a positive manner."

"Once Iraq officially recognises the sovereignty and borders of Kuwait, Russia will support efforts to set a date for the official beginning of the operation of the long-term monitoring system, as required by the U.N. Security Council Resolution 715."

Similarly, it will support the beginning of a specific probationary period to ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring system."

"Once this period ends, which Russia believes should not exceed six months, the U.N. Security Council will pass a resolution providing for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 in full and without any additional conditions."

"Russia has reiterated that it will support the revocation of other sanctions in light of the progress Iraq makes towards the implementation of the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions."

"Iraq has stated its willingness to continue to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross to determine the fate of the missing Kuwaiti citizens. Kozyrev noted the special importance Russia attaches to this humanitarian issue."

France, a member of the

and the United States over policy towards Iraq.

Defence Minister Francois Leotard said aloud on Wednesday what some French officials had been whispering since the start of the latest crisis, drawing a furious response from Washington.

Mr. Leotard said Iraq had violated no U.N. resolutions and suggested the U.S. military buildup was motivated, at least in part, by domestic American politics a few weeks before mid-term congressional elections.

France, a member of the

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Israeli hostage, commando and 3 kidnappers killed in rescue bid

BIR NABALA, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli commandos on Friday attempted to rescue a soldier held hostage by the Hamas group, but the operation ended in the death of three kidnappers and the Israeli hostage as well as another Israeli soldier, Israeli officials said.

Eight others wounded in the raid, which occurred about one hour before the 9 p.m. deadline kidnappers had set for killing Corporal Nachshon Waxman, an Israeli-American, officials said.

Two of the kidnappers were captured, the army said.

They had demanded the release of their spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, and the freeing of 200 prisoners.

At a news conference in

Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Waxman was killed by his kidnappers of the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas.

Mr. Rabin said he ordered the operation because he never got an answer that Hamas was willing to trade the soldier for Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the jailed spiritual leader of Hamas.

He told reporters at the defence ministry that "I would say that I would be happy to give back the Nobel Peace Prize to bring back to life both of the soldiers who fell."

"This is part of a policy of an all-out war against terrorism," Mr. Rabin said, saying the government had a policy of not negotiating with "terrorists."

"Whoever wants to advance peace must fight the

radical, murderous terrorists of Hamas and Islamic Jihad and the rejectionists because they are the murderers of peace," he said.

The raid came even though Israel was negotiating with political leaders of Hamas, who ultimately agreed to a 24-hour delay in the deadline.

The soldiers attacked a house just north of Jerusalem in the village of Bir Nabala, part of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. It was only about three kilometres from the home of Waxman, an Israeli-American who was kidnapped Sunday.

Officials said Waxman and an Israeli officer, identified at the scene as Nir Poraz, from the attacking force were killed along with all three kidnappers.

King-Rabin talks part of ongoing contacts — Anani

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Jawad Al Anani has described His Majesty King Hussein's meeting on Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as part of ongoing contacts with Israeli leaders.

"The King's meetings with Israeli leaders are sometimes necessary to solve specific major issues," Dr. Anani told Jordan Television. "Such meetings reflect progress towards the Jordanian position which stresses Jordan's resolve to restore its rights."

Dr. Anani said King Hussein's method in negotiations was characterised by far-sightedness and clear vision. "Through this method, King Hussein has been able to convince Israel that the benefits of peace will be shared by all," Dr. Anani said.

said. "The Israeli leadership is convinced that Jordan will not abandon its sovereign rights," he added.

"The peace process has gone beyond the mere discussion of what is for me and what is for you. A great part of this has been made solved and what remains is the practical implementation of what has been agreed upon."

Dr. Anani said some progress had been made on the Jordanian-Israeli peace track, but that there were some practical steps which should be agreed upon by both parties.

Another senior official told AFP that the unscheduled summit on Wednesday between King Hussein and Mr. Rabin, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, was made possible because of "tangible progress" in their countries' peace negotiations.

The official declined to speculate on the timing of a treaty.

"There is no specific deadline for a peace treaty," he said, asking not to be named.

"Once all sovereignty-related issues on occupied land and water quotas are settled, it would be clear the door will open for signing the prospective peace treaty."

In Israel, Mr. Rabin said a signing was on the cards before the end of 1994.

"We have not yet wrapped everything up with Jordan, but a settlement of the problems which separate us is at an advanced stage," he said.

"I hope that by the end of the year a peace agreement will be signed and I hope that it could be even sooner than

that."

Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio earlier that Israel and Jordan had taken "a big step towards peace" following his meeting with King Hussein.

Mr. Rabin said he and Mr. Peres had discussed the issues of borders and water-sharing in two-and-a-half hours of talks in Amman.

Amman agreed that no Israeli villages would be surrendered as part of any deal to return land seized by Israel after the 1967 war, the premier said.

"Those villages are on sovereign Israeli territory and the differences are only over the fields and wells around these villages," Mr. Rabin added.

The Jerusalem Post reported: Israel Television, citing unnamed sources, said a peace treaty between Israel

and Jordan may be signed Nov. 16 in Denver, Colorado. The report could not be confirmed.

"The meeting advances the peace talks between Jordan and Israel and shows the effort to continue the peace process despite terrorist attacks," Rabin spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said. The meeting had been scheduled earlier this week, he said, giving no further details.

A participant at the meeting told The Jerusalem Post, "Gaps are closing, a peace treaty is closer, but we're still not there yet."

Two main issues have stood in the way of an Israel-Jordan peace treaty, namely border demarcation and allocation of water.

Progress was made recent-

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Arafat, Peres and Rabin share Nobel amid controversy

OSLO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli leaders Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres shared the Nobel Peace Prize Friday for signing last year's peace accord, even as the Mideast was ensnared in a new crisis.

The committee hailed the men's "courage" despite their controversial pasts. But one committee member, outraged that Mr. Arafat was included, immediately submitted his resignation, in one of the ugliest disputes over the prize in years.

The choice has been highly controversial, especially following the kidnapping this week of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian hardliners. Mr. Rabin has demanded Mr. Arafat resign in the kidnapping, throwing the peace process into its worst crisis since the accord was signed last year. (see separate story).

The kidnapping "is deeply tragic and fills us with sadness

and anxiety," said Francis Sejersted, chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize award committee. "The situation has been created by people who wish to break off the peace process, which this year's peace prize winners have initiated."

Wary of stepping on toes, Mr. Sejersted announced the names of Mr. Arafat, Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin in alphabetical order to a packed news conference.

Mahmoud Abbas, the key Palestinian negotiator of the PLO-Israel peace deal, said he was disappointed the Nobel committee left him out of the peace prize while awarding it to his Israeli counterpart.

"If the report is true, it is regrettable," Mr. Abbas told Reuters in his office in Tunis.

"I understand that the prize be awarded to Abu Ammar (Yasser Arafat) and Rabin, but if Peres is added, his Palestinian counterpart

should also be added," he said.

Mr. Rabin, reacting to the prize in a statement issued by his spokesman, said the "work is not yet finished, and the prize is for the future more than it is a reward for the efforts of peace that have been made up until now."

He added that the peace process faced a "moment of truth" over the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier.

Mr. Arafat said he was honoured but that the award belonged to the Palestinian people.

"The prize is not for me," he said from Alexandria, Egypt. "It is for my people who suffered a lot, people who have been able to achieve the peace of the brave, for our martyrs, for our prisoners, for our children, for the future."

The prize carries an award of seven million kronors (\$933,000).

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Aristide returns to Haiti today

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the last day of his exile, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Friday received a warm farewell at the White House. President Clinton said a new era of hope is opening for Haiti with the restoration of democracy.

With Mr. Aristide standing at his side, the president said the Haitian people are "moving from fear to freedom" now that Haiti's military leaders have left and the elected president is returning Saturday to his Caribbean homeland.

The two leaders spoke to a White House gathering of congressional leaders and others who supported Mr. Aristide's reinstatement during his three years in exile. Mr. Aristide thanked Mr. Clinton and others who helped him cause.

He said Haitians feel hopeful and "we will be moving from misery to poverty with dignity."

His return should enhance democracy throughout the world, Mr. Aristide said, repeating his recent pledge to

say "no to violence, no to vengeance, yes to reconciliation" when he retains control of his government after three years of military rule.

He also invited Mr. Clinton to visit Haiti soon after his restoration to the presidency.

At the conclusion of the 20-minute ceremony, Mr. Clinton signed an executive order formally dismantling remaining sanctions against Haiti, effective with Mr. Aristide's return on Saturday.

Earlier, Mr. Clinton met with family members of some of the 20,000 U.S. troops assigned to Haiti.

Early on, Mr. Aristide's most difficult task will be to win parliamentary confirmation for a prime minister, a goal that won't come easy unless he picks someone with broad political appeal.

Officials say he may have to wait for confirmation of his choice for prime minister until early January when parliamentary elections could give him the lower house majority he now lacks.

Legal experts study papers drawn up in Eilat negotiations

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDANIAN negotiators, at the end of the first week of bilateral negotiations in Eilat, have turned over related papers after its talks with Israel to legal experts who will study the documents closely for any possible loopholes before Jordan can accept these papers as a draft peace treaty with Israel, official sources said Friday.

The draft papers, contents of which remain secret, are still missing some details which are to be negotiated during next week's Aqaba talks and perhaps another shorter round of talks early November, the sources said.

Agreement over these final details, mainly in the water and boundaries issues, need to be resolved as part of the "peace package" that will weigh these two sets of talks with security talks, before any final draft peace treaty can be completed.

The missing details are primarily ones that deal with the quantity of water that Jordan

is entitled to as part of its rightful share of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers as well as details over delineation of borders which may include a final decision that would resolve the outstanding problems on boundaries and territory "within a satisfactory peace package," one source said.

Asked whether Jordan was ready to accept the principle of exchange of territory to finalise agreements on the boundaries and territory, a senior official said that "it is not a matter of accepting the principle of exchange of territory as such. What has to be done is to assess the peace package as a whole and see what is the tradeoff within that package."

Chief Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubenstein said Wednesday when asked whether Israel was asking Jordan to accept the principle of exchange of territory: "I am not going to discuss this. Discussing it would not serve the interest of my country or mine."

According to the sources,

who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, the different committees in the bilateral negotiations have drafted agreements that, if approved, will serve as annexes to a peace treaty that could be signed by the leaderships of the two states.

Officials who conceded that such documents do exist said that the draft papers "are not ones that have been agreed upon or approved by the Jordanian side to the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations."

During the Eilat negotiations, sources told the Jordan Times that while most of the work was concluded in some committees, including the drafting of final papers, the Jordanian side did not give its approval to these draft papers.

"The papers have to be scrutinised by legal experts as a rule, but negotiations have to continue over the final details in these papers before

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Queen attends Washington ceremony to honour Mandela

WASHINGTON — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Wednesday joined other board members of the Hunger Project (THP) in Washington, D.C., to honour South African President Nelson Mandela, this year's laureate of THP's Africa Prize for Leadership. U.S. President Bill Clinton also attended the award ceremony, as well as government officials and diplomats from around the world.

Founded in 1977, THP is a global strategic international non-profit organisation committed to ending world hunger by the turn of the century. It works closely with the United Nations and its agencies and carries out initiatives ranging from improving village health, education and employment programmes in a number of Asian and African countries, to influencing aid policies in Japan and the United States. Currently, THP has 12 global initiatives.

THP launched the prestigious Africa Prize to empower leaderships committed to the well-being of the peoples of Africa and to focus international attention on the necessity to achieve the sustainable end of hunger. Former U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar presented the award to President Mandela for his "programme for a new South Africa" that is "free from both tyranny and hunger."

In his statement, President Clinton paid tribute to the efforts and initiatives of the Hunger Project, saying "your programmes have made us more aware of the persistence of starvation in all corners of the globe. Already you are helping people in more than 25 nations to help themselves to end their hunger, and as you say in your

prize here, 'on a sustainable basis.'"

Queen Noor participated Thursday in THP's executive board meeting. She has been a member of the organisation, with whom she shares a commitment to people-centered development, since June 1993.

The board meeting, which was also attended by the Japanese foreign minister, the secretary-general of the Commonwealth and representatives of major international institutions, discussed new strategic initiatives. The Hunger Project also reviewed the Youth Ending Hunger Programme which involves younger generations in the fight against hunger and creates a committed new generation ready to take on this responsibility. Over six million people from 152 countries have enrolled in the organisation, generating a global commitment to end world hunger.

The dinner was also attended by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, as well as 1300 distinguished guests, leaders, activists, diplomats and scholars. Accompanying Her Majesty were Her Royal Highnesses Prince Talal, Princess Ghida Talal, and Ambassador and Mrs. Fayez Tarawneh.

In Cincinnati, Queen Noor unveiled the reunited Zodiac Tyche, two segments of a 2000-year-old Nabatean sculpture representing a goddess of fortune, at the Cincinnati Art Museum. One piece of the sculpture is from the museum's collection, and the other is a cast of a fragment held by the National Archaeological Museum in Amman.

The statue was broken into two pieces during an earthquake in the fourth century

A.D., and was uncovered during an excavation in southern Jordan in the 1930s.

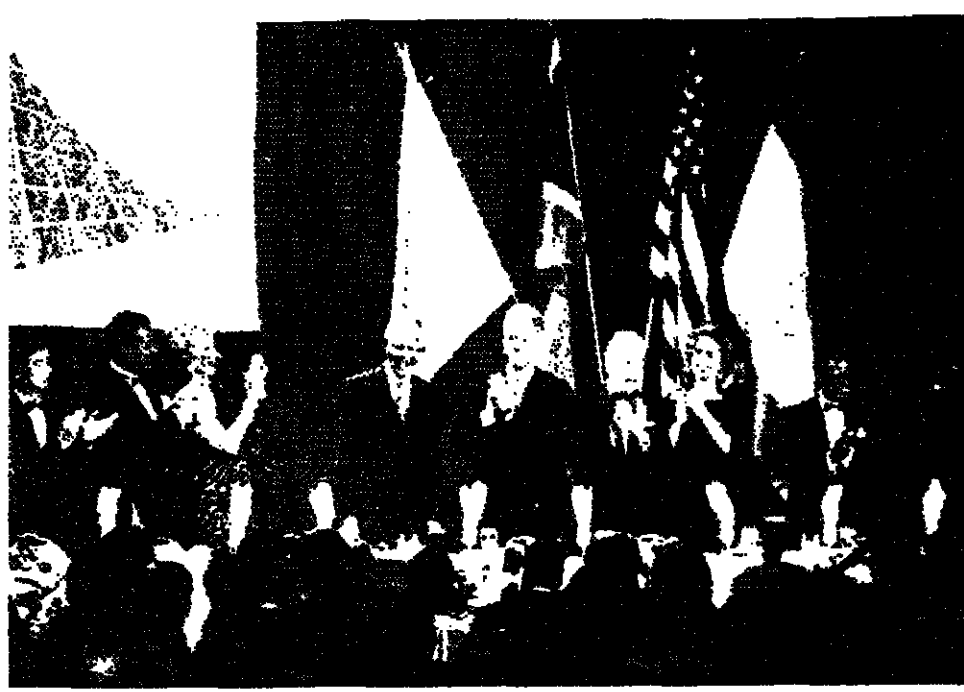
In her remarks, the Queen thanked the museum for organising the important Jordanian-American cultural exchange and described the dedication as an "important and mutually satisfying stage in a tradition of American archaeological research in Jordan dating back to the early decades of this century."

"We in Jordan value this tradition, not only for the shared scholarly findings, but for the enhanced appreciation of each other's cultures and values," she said.

Cooperation and joint efforts today clearly demonstrate that "by working together in scholarly research, tourism promotion, commercial ventures and cultural exchange, we have the opportunity to shape a new world of peace and human understanding."

The Cincinnati Art Museum, which was opened in 1886, possesses a fine collection of ancient Nabatean sculpture, the only holding of its kind in an American museum, and the largest in the world outside Jordan. The museum's holdings were discovered in the late 1930s at Khirbet Tamur, a sanctuary site in southern Jordan, by a team from the American School of Oriental Research led by Dr. Nelson Glueck.

Earlier, Queen Noor also visited the Islamic Centre of Greater Cincinnati, established by the Islamic Educational Council. The centre, still under construction, will become a site of worship, a community centre and an institute of learning to study Islam, promote inter-faith dialogue and understanding, and teach Arabic and other Middle Eastern languages.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, U.S. President Bill Clinton and others attend a ceremony to dela in Washington

GATT official ends visit, says talks were positive

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Singaporean diplomat involved in Jordan's entry to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) leaves Jordan today after a one-week visit during which he urged the Kingdom to enter the broader World Trade Organisation (WTO), which, he argued, would be more beneficial for the country.

K. Kesavapany, Singapore's permanent ambassador to the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva, met with Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, Planning Ministry and Ministry of Industry and Trade officials as well as Chamber of Industry Chairman Khalid Abu Hassan and industrialists.

One of the main objectives of Mr. Kesavapany's visit was to review the progress made in Jordan's application to join GATT and to inform the Kingdom that in view of the latest developments in the international trade scene and the short "shelf-life" of GATT, Jordan would be better off dropping the GATT entry procedures and apply to join the WTO.

Under an agreement signed in April, GATT members agreed to create the WTO and that the body would be formally launched on Jan. 1, 1995 and would replace GATT in two years' time.

However, in the view of the delay in American legislative endorsement of the agreement it is possible that the formal launching of the organisation would be delayed until mid-1995.

Jordan applied to join GATT in early 1994 and a GATT working group to negotiate the Kingdom's entry was formed in March. Mr. Kesavapany heads that working group.

Mr. Gammoh, the finance minister, has indicated in earlier comments to the Jordan Times that the government may apply to join the WTO directly without going through the short-lived GATT. But, he said, Jordan wanted to know of the entire range of issues and all related details of direct WTO entry before taking a decision.

While GATT covers only trade in industrial goods, WTO includes 15 distinct sectors of international economic relations including services in major areas as well as intellectual property rights.

Mr. Kesavapany's talks here were expected to have provided Jordanian officials with the necessary insight into the details of the WTO. Several officials involved in the process indicated that Jordan might accept Mr. Kesavapany's advice and look closer into the benefits that the Kingdom might have in joining the WTO with a

view to going ahead with a formal application.

This would mean dropping the ongoing process of GATT entry and preparing the necessary documentation and negotiations that could last between 12 and 18 months.

Mr. Kesavapany, who on Thursday met with Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi and two World Bank delegations currently visiting Jordan, described his talks here as highly fruitful. He would not indicate what his impressions were on the prospect of Jordan taking up his advice.

On Wednesday, the Singaporean diplomat addressed Jordanian businessmen at the Chamber of Industry and sought to allay Jordanian concerns that joining GATT or WTO would undermine its economic interests by being forced to open itself for barrier-free trade and services and damage its local industry.

Mr. Kesavapany noted that the Middle East peace process "enhanced prospects for economic and trade cooperation in the region surrounding Jordan."

But, he said, Jordan had to adjust itself to the changing environment in international trade if it were to hope to gain the economic benefits of peace.

Brotherhood slams Iraqi military moves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's strongest political grouping, the Muslim Brotherhood, has denounced the Iraqi build-up of troops near Kuwait.

A statement issued by the movement said: "The Iraqi military build-up aims to find a pretext for foreign intervention, blackmail and further exploitation of the region's resources."

It said the Brotherhood supported "the Iraqi people against the continued sanctions" but rejected "the measures taken by the Iraqi leadership towards creating a state of insecurity and instability in the region."

In the 1990-91 Gulf crisis supporters of the Brotherhood staged huge demonstrations in support of Iraq.

The latest Iraqi move, said the statement, "serves the Zionist-Western plans which

followed the 1990 Gulf crisis." It called on all the parties concerned to "solve their own problems without any foreign intervention, and to take into consideration their peoples' interests and rights."

The Jordan Communist Party (JCP) said meanwhile it has not signed any statements attacking Iraqi opposition groups and accusing them of being quislings.

The JCP was reacting to an article by member of the lower House of Parliament Basam Al Omoush, published Thursday in Al Rai, in which eight political parties including the JCP, had signed a statement attacking the Iraqi opposition.

In a letter to Al Rai the JCP said it has not signed any such statements.

Pan-Arabists, Islamists seek common ground

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A three-day conference held in Beirut on Islam and pan-Arabism has recommended at the conclusion that Islamists and pan-Arabists contribute to the intellectual interaction between the two sides.

Participants in the conference recommended that pan-Arabist and Islamist scholars and researchers work on publishing studies on proposals to establish a Middle Eastern market and the influence of such a market on Arab economies and the cooperation between Arab countries.

The conference, in which 120 Arab intellectuals participated, set up 36 committees to follow up the implementation of its recommendations.

Clear gaps appeared between the stands of the Islamists and pan-Arabists during the sessions of the conference.

As Islamists highlighted the need for having Islamic rule to face modern challenges, pan-Arabists underlined the need to focus on projects unifying the Arab Nation. Still, pan-Arabists agreed that they should work jointly with Islamists to be able to counter "the grave challenges facing the nation."

The conference's final statement stressed that the meeting was seeking to establish a forum for joint work "to change the unjust and miserable reality imposed on the nation."

The statement said that the Islamists and pan-Arabists had put their differences behind to be able to face the challenges.

The statement said that although the conferees represent two intellectual and political trends, they still have many common aspects that prompt them to work together.

The participants also voiced their rejection of the ongoing Middle East peace process, describing it as a plot to relinquish the rights of the Palestinian people.

They also expressed their support for the Palestinian intifada and the Lebanese resistance for Israel's occupation of South Lebanon, stressing that they were against normalising relations with Israel in any form.

They also called for lifting the economic embargo imposed on Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait as well as embargoes imposed on other Arab countries such as Libya and Sudan.

They condemned human rights violations in the Arab World and urged Arab countries to cancel extraordinary laws and called for the release of political prisoners.

Algeria not tied to Morocco attack — France

PARIS (R) — France said on Friday there was no evidence to the Algeria to an attack on a hotel in Morocco in August that helped to sour relations between the two North African neighbours.

"I have found that (Algeria) was accused of being mixed up in this affair a little too fast," Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said in an interview with the French daily Le Monde. "In my opinion, there is no evidence for it."

Armed gunmen killed two Spanish tourists during a robbery at a luxury hotel in the southern Moroccan city of Marrakesh in August.

Relations between Algeria and Morocco soured after the shooting and the arrest of eight suspects in Morocco, including some of Algerian origin. Morocco imposed a visa requirement for Algerians and Algeria retaliated by closing their land border.

The Moroccan Interior Ministry accused Algeria last month of training the leaders of the gunmen arrested after a spate of armed attacks in Morocco, including the hotel robbery.

Algeria, racked by violence since the government cancelled 1992 elections that Muslim fundamentalists were poised to win, denied any involvement.

Hamas castigates Arafat over arrests

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has lashed out at the Palestine National Authority (PNA), accusing it of becoming a "tool" for implementing Zionist policies in the Gaza and Jericho areas.

Hamas said the PNA had detained more than 300 people of its activists in Gaza since Wednesday in an "oppressive campaign that proves its subjugation to the Zionist occupation authorities and that (the PNA) has become an obedient tool for implementing the policies of terrorist (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin."

In a statement faxed to the Jordan Times over the weekend, Hamas expressed contempt for what it called the hasty condemnation by some parties of the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier near Tel Aviv on Sunday.

Describing the operation as heroic and a legitimate form of resisting the occupation, Hamas said in the statement, which had no date line, that kidnapping has been used by Israel against Palestinians to suppress their struggle against the occupation forces.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has condemned the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier, saying the operation was directed against him personally.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who condemned the kidnapping in

Amman in a hastily called press conference on Wednesday, said he had asked Mr. Arafat to do all that is possible to secure the release of the Israeli soldier.

A Palestinian spokesman said Mr. Arafat had instructed his security officials to begin an immediate search for the soldier.

Hamas, which claimed responsibility for the kidnapping in a video tape, demanded the release of tens of Palestinian detainees, including its leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, who is serving a life sentence, in return for freeing the Israeli soldier.

In the statement, Hamas condemned what it called the "cheap acceptance" by the PNA of the Israeli instructions, saying it will continue its legitimate resistance to the occupation until it ends.

The Islamic movement, which said the PNA has become a symbol of Israeli occupation, demanded that Mr. Arafat free all Hamas activists that the PNA has allegedly detained since Wednesday.

Instead of taking the Israeli line and condemning the operation, Hamas said, the PNA should have supported Hamas demands for the release of Palestinian detainees just like every "Palestinian home in the West Bank, Gaza and the diaspora."

Hamas said the "suspicious" campaign against Hamas activists by the PNA would eventually outrage the Palestinian people.

Arab Israelis present four distinct requests to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Member of the Israeli Knesset Abdul Wahab Darawshe, who is heading a 65-member Arab Israeli delegation currently on a visit to Jordan, on Thursday landed His Majesty King Hussein's pan-Arab stand and his support for Palestinian people.

In an interview with Al Rai, Mr. Darawshe said King Hussein's response to the demands of the delegation was encouraging and bodes close future relations between Jordan and the Israeli Arabs.

Mr. Darawshe said the delegation made four demands to the Jordanian government.

The delegation requested the government to allow Israeli Arabs to enter Jordan without waiting until a Jordanian-Israeli agreement is signed, allocate a number of seats for Palestinian students in Jordanian universities, assist Palestinians to get Arab recognition of them as an inseparable part of the Arab Nation, and increase

the number of Israeli Arabs allowed to pass through Jordan to perform pilgrimage to the holy places in Mecca.

Mr. Darawshe said Israeli Arabs that were not party to any inter-Arab conflict and that they had a responsible national stand. He voiced hope that such inter-Arab differences will be settled in the best interest of Arab solidarity.

Mr. Darawshe and his delegation met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and discussed with him the delegation's demands. The prime minister promised every possible help.

Dr. Majali reviewed with the delegation the latest developments in the region, particularly the developments in the peace process on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State Mohammad Thweib.

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani also received the delegation and reviewed with them the developments of the peace process and Jordan's role in achieving a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region.



Information Minister Jawad Al Anani on Thursday meets with an Arab Israeli delegation (Petra photo)

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Alice Au Pays Merveilles
17:30 Un Four Tous Les Six Compagnons
18:30 News in French
19:00 Grands Glopers
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Murder the Wrote
21:00 News in English
21:30 Future Film: "Fide Away"
22:00 Home Free

PRAYER TIMES

04:17 Fajr
05:34 (Sunrise) Duha
11:22 Dhur
14:37 Asr
17:10 Maghreb
18:27 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetlana, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 641757
Terrence Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 652326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 64195
The Lutheran-Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will continue to drop gradually with a chance of scattered showers particularly in the northern parts of the Kingdom. Skies will be cloudy and winds westerly moderate to active. In Amman, it will be dusty and partly cloudy with a chance of thunder showers. Winds will be northerly active and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 17 / 26

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Nasr 751144
Dr. Fakhri Bilal 663412
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour 666575
Dr. Ghaleb Zawadeh 736011
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Nairook pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimacini pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 44 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Nasr 751144
Dr. Fakhri Bilal 663412
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour 666575
Dr. Ghaleb Zawadeh 736011
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Nairook pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimacini pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 22 / 34
Deserts 14 / 29
Jordan Valley 23 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 44 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 874242
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdai Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 775111
Radio Jordan 774145
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Open Air (Int. Airport) 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6
Akilich Maternity, J. Ann. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmouani 664171/4
Shimacini Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667277/9
The Islamic, Abdai 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdai 6641646
Italian, Al-Muasher 777101/3
Al-Basir, J. Asrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
06:45 New Delhi (RJ)
09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Dhahran (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
10:00 Colombo (RJ)
10:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:50 Cairo (RJ)
16:55 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:25 Istanbul (RJ)
18:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
21:30 Madrid, Vienna (RJ)
22:45 Amsterdam (add) (RJ)
22:45 Frankfurt (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:28 Vienna (OA)
15:45 Rome, Larnaca (A2)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
19:00 Sanaa (YV)
19:20 Cairo (MS)
19:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
23:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
06:45 New Delhi (RJ)
09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Dhahran (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
10:00 Colombo (RJ)
10:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:50 Cairo (RJ)
16:55 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:25 Istanbul (RJ)
18:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
21:30 Madrid, Vienna (RJ)
22:45 Amsterdam (add) (RJ)
22:45 Frankfurt (add) (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 720 / 300
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 110 / 80
Carrot 300 / 200
Cauliflower 260 / 450
Chambrine 180 / 90
Cucumbers (large) 320 / 220
Cucumbers (small) 320 / 220
Eggplant 300 / 200
Garlic 1200 / 800
Grapes 650 / 450
Lemon 1000 / 650
Marrow (large) 160 / 80
Marrow (small) 340 / 240
Mushrooms 300 / 300
Olive (green) 400 / 300
Onion (green) 320 / 220
Onion (dry) 380 / 220
Pepper (hot) 320 / 220
Pepper (sweet) 320 / 220
Potato 320 / 220
Spinach 320 / 220
Tomato 250 / 160
String beans 750 / 500

هذا من الابر

Symposium on working women ends, calling for better working conditions

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday attended the closing session of a four-day symposium on working women in the Arab World, which called for removing obstacles preventing women from joining labour unions and requested employers and governments to provide better working conditions, including transportation, nurseries at the work place, better pay, allowing more time for nursing mothers to breastfeed their babies, and increasing the maternity leave in line with international criteria.

The symposium called on Arab governments and non-government organisations to create training programmes and plans designed to enhance women's efficiency.

The symposium also called for ensuring equal wages for men and women carrying out similar jobs, and stressed the need to create enough job opportunities for all women, particularly disabled women.

It stressed the importance of providing comprehensive and accurate statistics on women's work.

Commenting on the symposium's recommendation, Princess Basma described the recommendations as constructive, saying that they will help draw up future plans to enhance women's efficiency and increase their contribution to the development of their society.

Man sentenced to 8 years in prison for raping his 16-year-old sister

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 21-year-old man charged with the rape and attempted murder of his younger sister Thursday was sentenced to 13 years and four months in prison.

According to criminal court documents, Mohammad Abdul Kader Hussein was sentenced to eight years in prison for raping his 16-year-old sister, Kifaya on Nov. 13, 1993. He received an additional five years for attempting to kill her the next day, after she told her family that he had raped her.

The convicted rapist will also serve four months for being intoxicated the night of the rape.

The court documents said that on the night of Nov. 13, 1993, Mr. Hussein returned to his house in Al Zaghatit suburb in Jabal Hashmi Shamali. According to the documents, Mr. Hussein was intoxicated. The court said he seduced his sister and raped her.

The next day, after Kifaya told her family about the rape, Mr. Hussein tried to kill her using a kitchen knife, said the court.

Kifaya became pregnant, was forced by her family to undergo an abortion and then was married off to a 50-year-old man who divorced her six months later.

On May 31, 1994, the day she was divorced, Kifaya was stabbed to death by her older brother, Khalid, 32, to "cleanse the family's honour."

Khalid is currently awaiting trial for the murder of his sister.

Majali pledges enactment of labour law as union officials end 3-day conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions Thursday ended a three-day conference in Amman at which Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali pledged to speed up the enactment of a modern labour law and exempt all workers earning less than JD 500 per month income tax.

In his address to the meeting, Dr. Majali promised continued government support for the country's labour force, adding that the government would respect the recommendations and resolutions of the conference and strive to resolve workers' problems and help them achieve their goals.

The prime minister also pledged that the government would create a labour bank.

A statement released Friday summing up the conference recommendations urged the concerned authorities to strictly enforce measures against employers who violate labour regulations and ensure that such employers comply with related court verdicts and arbitration committee decisions.

Referring to the labour market, the statement said that employers should be allowed to employ guest workers before making sure that no qualified Jordanian candidate was available for the job.

The federation should be given a greater role in controlling the process of employment and controlling the local labour market, said the statement, which also demanded that all social security benefits for workers should be respected.

The statement demanded that the government set the rates of wages for workers,

link the pay to a cost of living index; it also said workers' children should be offered a fair share of seats at state universities, and one per cent of the profits made by Jordanian companies should be assigned to finance the federation's projects.

The federation called on the government to back and facilitate the labour movement and its unions and do all it can to enhance cohesion among the labour unions in such a manner that would benefit local communities.

The statement voiced Jordanian workers' solidarity with labour unions of the Arab World and demanded that the sanctions on the Iraqi and Libyan peoples be lifted.

The federation also voiced support and allegiance to the Hashemite Throne and backed the government's policies.

Several working papers were reviewed at the meetings which were opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Delegates from Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan, Palestine, Tunisia, the U.S., Germany and Denmark were present at the meetings.

'Onshore verification proceeds smoothly'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Seven weeks after a four-year-old offshore inspection of Jordan-bound cargo was replaced by an onshore verification regime, things are moving smoothly at Aqaba port with little complaint from any quarters, a market shipping official said Friday.

However, an expected drop in prices in the local market has yet to materialise. Importers said the goods available in the market were from the days of the offshore inspections when they paid extra freight charges, which were in turn reflected on prices in the local market.

They said it would take some more time before their present stocks run out and fresh imports — on which they paid a relatively lower freight — come into the market.

Tawfiq Kavar, president of the Jordan Shipping Agents' Association (JSAA), said ships were no longer being subject to undue delays and no Jordan-bound shipment was observed as violating the international sanctions against Iraq by Lloyds Register surveyors who took up position at Aqaba on Sept. 25.

Mr. Kavar also said there were signs that international shipping lines which suspended their regular sailing to and from Aqaba at the outset of the Gulf crisis and the imposition of sanctions against Iraq in 1990 were slowly resuming operations to the Red Sea port, Jordan's only sea outlet and one of the main points for Iraqi imports.

"The right of free navigation has been restored and the situation is back to normal as far as shipping to and from Aqaba is concerned," Mr. Kavar told the Jordan Times.

The team of Lloyds Register surveyors is working closely with Jordanian customs inspectors and ports officials, he said. The surveyors' task is limited to "observing" the cargo as Jordanian inspectors open them for their regular customs inspection as called for under Jordanian regulations.

Mr. Kavar said the customs verifications were aimed at establishing that contents of containers and sealed boxes were in conformity with the relevant shipping documents. As long as this compatibility is established, there is no other procedure involved for goods bound for the Jordanian market.

However, all consignments bound for Iraq should be accompanied by prior approval by the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

The United States command in the Gulf announced in late September that the onshore verification regime was found satisfactory. That announcement was made necessary since the U.S. had set a one-month trial period for the new arrangement when it ordered its warships to suspend their interceptions of Aqaba-bound ships on Aug. 25.

The American warships hovered around in the area during the one-month period. It is not known whether they are still in the region. However, it is of little concern to Jordan since they are nowhere near the Kingdom's territorial waters and are not posing any harassment to free navigation.

Mr. Kavar expected the total cost for the Lloyds Register presence at Aqaba to be "not more than \$3 million" in the first year. That is a far cry from the tens of millions of extra freight charges that Jordanian importers had to pay to make up for what shipowners saw as their losses in terms of delays and diver-

sions at the Red Sea and reduced cargo space resulting from guidelines set by the U.S.-led enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq.

Under the present arrangement, the cost of the Lloyds presence and observation at Aqaba is recovered from shipowners instead of the importers themselves, Mr. Kavar said.

"The stevedoring charges levied from shipowners at Aqaba have been doubled," Mr. Kavar said, noting that the government had set a new tariff for such charges. Roughly, this means about JD 40 for every 20-foot container instead of the earlier rate of JD 20, but still far down from the \$500 that shipowners used to add as extra freight.

The extra stevedoring charges collected from shipowners are being remitted to an account under the control of the United Nations, which in turn will pay the Lloyds Register.

"So far we have not any shipowner reflecting the extra charge on freights to Aqaba," said Mr. Kavar. "They seem to have absorbed the extra costs themselves."

Mr. Kavar also said that some of the international shipping lines which halted their Aqaba sailings to avoid the harassment by the offshore inspectors were gradually resuming their operations. He mentioned the Norwegian Hual and Gearbulk lines among those which have already resumed regular sailings to and from Aqaba and Taiwan's Evergreen, which has resumed its operations to Jeddah, where it unloads Aqaba-bound cargo for transshipment.

Nearly 40 international lines used to send their ships to Aqaba before the Gulf crisis. Only 15 maintained their operations after the crisis broke out.

Despite the lifting of the offshore inspections, Aqaba is not expected to see a boom in shipping since Iraqi imports — which constituted the port's mainstay pre-crisis operation — have dwindled, particularly that Baghdad has started operations at its Umm Qasr Port in the Gulf.

Officials and shipping circles say that any improvement in the Aqaba operations would have to wait for an easing/lifting of the sanctions against Iraq, a prospect which seems to have receded further in the wake of the recent crisis posed by an Iraqi military buildup near the border with Kuwait.

WHAT'S GOING ON PLAYS

- ★ A bilingual play entitled "Lights from Jericho" at the site of the Byzantine Church of Darat Al Fuman, Jabal Laweibdeh at 7:30 p.m. (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Play entitled "Three Tall Women" by the Artists Repertory Theatre Group at Prince Hassan Auditorium, University of Jordan at 8:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Recital of melodious poems at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 695291).

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Prestige of Jamal Abdul Nasser and the Meaning of Nasserism in the World" by Dr. Husam Issa of Egypt at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Iraqi artist Salam Nouri at Alla Art Gallery (Tel. 693350).
- ★ Exhibition of applied art (flowers, painting on clothes, mirrors and pottery) by Fathiya Al Asi at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Diana Salim at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibitions of abstract art by Waddah Al Ward, Ghasan Abu Laban, and Sahab Ahmad at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wasfi Tal Street (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Khulud Abdul Sattar at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by Rafiq Nassiri at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by Amer Fatouhi at Instituto Cervantes (Spanish Cultural Centre) (Tel. 616858).
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utshana (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Exhibition of watercolours by Vladimir Tamari at Darat Al Fuman, Jabal Laweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Quest, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Fuman of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Laweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ "The Dimes Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdou.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali stresses urgency of road safety

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Thursday said road accidents are costing the Kingdom JD 300 million annually, in addition to the heavy toll on human lives and injuries. Dr. Majali said traffic police alone cannot prevent road accidents, and stressed the importance of public participation in the drive to put an end to these tragedies. Addressing the fourth annual meeting of the Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, Dr. Majali said road accidents cannot be controlled, nor prevented through government efforts alone. "Unless drivers themselves respect traffic rules and regulations and unless people are directly involved in awareness building campaigns, accidents will continue," Dr. Majali called on mosque preachers to include in their sermons lessons and messages about road safety and how to prevent accidents. Labour unions can play an effective role in the drive to put an end to these accidents, he said.

Dutch envoy presents credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Thursday received the credentials of the newly-appointed Dutch ambassador to Jordan Robert Mobes.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171



The Chairman and Board of Directors of
Alahlia Commercial Centers p.s.c.
express their deepest gratitude

To

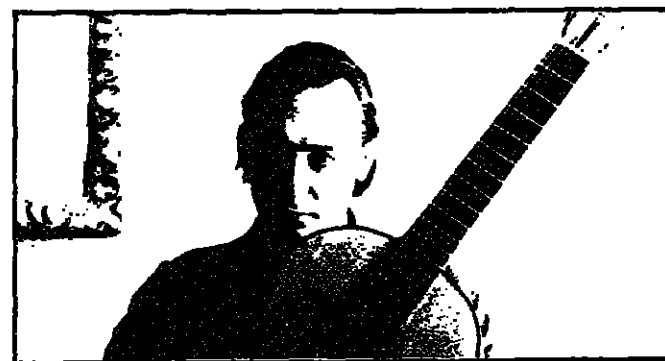
Her Royal Highness Princess Basma
For inaugurating Alahlia ~ Abela Superstore.

Spanish Cultural Week

الاسبوع الثقافي الاسباني

Under the Patronage of
Her Majesty Queen Noor

"Vicente Amigo"



accompanied by Flamenco Singer
and Dancer
Modern Flamenco Jazz Concert

Acclaimed worldwide as one of the best
Flamenco Guitarists

With an exquisite Gourmet Dinner
prepared by Spain's top Chefs
Ramón Roteta
Juan Ignacio Zubizarain
José M. Gonzalez "Currito"

Feel Spain's passion for life

Oct 17 Dinner and Show JD30. Forte Grand 8:30 pm
Oct 18 Dinner and show JD30
Oct 18 Concert only JD7. Royal Cultural Centre 7:30 pm
All prices inclusive of tax and service

Tickets sold at Forte Grand Amman
For details, please call 696511



All proceeds to the benefit of Noor Al Hussein Foundation

Northern Ireland spends first night of peace in 25 years

BELFAST (R) — The people of Northern Ireland woke up Friday after spending their first night for 25 years free from the threat of political and sectarian violence after a ceasefire by Protestant guerrillas came into force.

Irish Premier Albert Reynolds said the truce by the Ulster Volunteer Force from Thursday midnight and a six-week-old ceasefire by their IRA rivals signalled the end to violence that has claimed 3,200 lives.

No major incidents were reported during the night and residents said there was a fresh wave of optimism in the battle-scarred province.

A small peace vigil by both Protestants and Catholics took place at Belfast City Hall where people sang peace songs and Irish folk songs during the night.

"I've been on cloud nine all day, over the moon," said one resident outside the hall. "It's the fact that you can walk the streets anywhere, even in no-go areas."

Another said: "In 20 years time people will say to you: 'Where were you when peace broke out in Northern Ireland?' It's too good to be true."

Another small demonstration by loyalists — known as such because they want to remain loyal to Britain — marched to the hall waving Union Jack flags, singing the British national anthem and saying the Protestant guerrilla ceasefire was a victory for those who supported union with Britain. It dispersed

without incident. One Belfast resident said she had already taken down grills from her windows while a Belfast milkman said it was a relief to do his milk round with the threat of violence lifted.

The pressure now has switched to British Prime Minister John Major to bring Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) opposed to British rule, into peace talks.

Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Major's partner in a 10-month-old peace plan, was to have telephone talks with Mr. Major before the British prime minister makes his keynote address at a Conservative Party conference in the southern resort town of Bournemouth Friday.

Mr. Major welcomed news of the Protestant guerrilla ceasefire but has so far resisted calls by Mr. Reynolds for early talks with guerrillas' political spokesmen.

Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein, said the truce was an important step and urged Mr. Major to seize the opportunity to begin peace talks.

Irish hopes are high that there will be an early change in British thinking. Mr. Reynolds said: "I think he (Major) will move sooner rather than later."

Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's chairman in Northern Ireland, said he also believed a Downing Street announcement could be on the way once the Conservative conference ended.

"We think these talks should have already begun,"

he told BBC Radio early Friday.

On the streets of Belfast and Londonderry Friday, there was elation and relief that the fighting, which has left 3,170 dead and 36,500 wounded over 25 years, appeared finally to be over.

The joint ceasefires do not, however, constitute a guarantee of peace between the province's Protestant majority and the Catholic minority which wants to rejoin with Ireland.

The House of Commons was expected to debate the Northern Ireland question when it returns from the summer break next week, a debate that could lead to exploratory talks with Sinn Fein by Christmas.

Thursday's announcement by the Combined Loyalist Military Command, representing all the loyalist paramilitary groups, said they would "universally cease all operational hostilities" beginning at midnight.

But it linked the truce directly to that of the IRA, saying, "the permanence of our ceasefire will be completely dependent upon the continued cessation of all Nationalist/Republican violence."

In Washington, President Bill Clinton Thursday welcomed a ceasefire announced by Northern Ireland's Protestant guerrillas, saying the parties must work towards a lasting settlement.

"The ceasefire announcement by the IRA on Aug. 31 and today's announcement by the (Combined Loyalist

Military Command) present the best hope for peace in a generation in Northern Ireland," Mr. Clinton said in a statement.

"The parties must now build on this historic step forward and enter into negotiations for a lasting settlement."

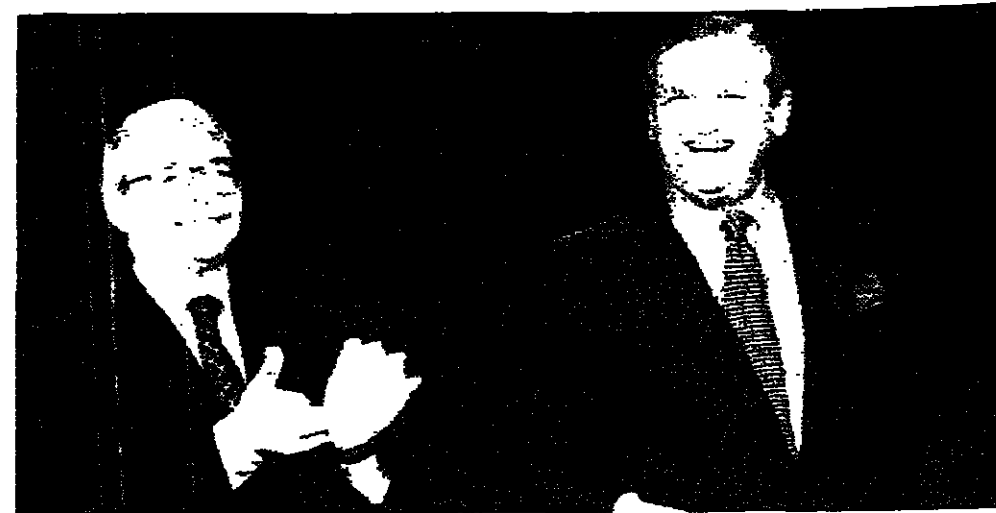
The Clinton administration has tried to promote peace in Northern Ireland by meeting with representatives of all sides in the conflict and nudging the Irish Republican Army towards the ceasefire announced in August.

"We continue to stand ready to assist in achieving a negotiated, democratic settlement supported by both communities in Northern Ireland," Mr. Clinton said.

He said Mr. Major and Mr. Reynolds deserved great credit for their leadership and persistence in pressing for progress and he was looking forward to the next steps in the process including the forum for peace and reconciliation proposed by Mr. Reynolds.

Senator Edward Kennedy, one of the most prominent Irish-Americans, said he hoped Thursday's announcement "signifies a permanent end to the violence that has plagued Northern Ireland for a quarter-century."

"It is my hope that the British government will now accept the IRA ceasefire as permanent and that all party talks will begin as soon as possible to achieve a lasting settlement," Sen. Kennedy said in a statement.



British Prime Minister John Major (left) in which he welcomed the historic ceasefire and Northern Ireland's Secretary of State Patrick Mayhew after his speech at the annual Tory Party conference in Bournemouth.

Sri Lanka peace talks press ahead

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka (AFP) — Sri Lanka's peace talks entered their second day Friday in this embattled northern town with both Tamil rebels and the government saying they were upbeat, despite violence which killed 19 people elsewhere.

The leader of the four-member official delegation, Kusumir Balapatabendi, told reporters here that the first day's talks with the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) focused on economic issues and he was optimistic.

"Today we had good reason to believe that both parties are on the right path to peace," another government delegate, Lionel Fernando, said after Thursday's discussions at the LTTE's main political office here.

The delegates landed here in a black air force Bell 212 helicopter to a rousing welcome by over 2,000 Tamil civilians.

Unarmed Tiger police dressed in light blue shirts and blue drill trousers lined the streets while guerrillas in jungle-camouflaged uniforms and cradling automatic rifles provided security to the Colombo team.

Sporadic clashes between the LTTE and security forces

elsewhere left 19 people dead on the eve of talks. But despite the bloodshed, defence sources in Colombo, 400 kilometres south of here, said the government may free 14 LTTE suspects from custody as a sign of goodwill.

The government is talking with a junior team from the LTTE, comprising deputy political leader Karikalan, head of the Jaffna Ravi and rebel administration boss Dominic.

After the preliminary talks end Friday, they are expected to meet again to discuss political issues and how to end the LTTE's separatist campaign which has claimed over 30,000 lives since its launch in 1972.

Streets have been decorated with blue flags, the colour of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga's party, and banners welcoming the peace mission. There were more armed LTTE cadres seen on the streets.

Tamil civilians here told visiting journalists that they hoped the latest bid would bring results unlike previous attempts which ended disastrously and led to more violence.

The LTTE and the then government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa held

secret talks for 14 months but they collapsed in June 1990, leading to the latest round of fighting in the island's northern and eastern regions.

At the time, Tigers and Mr. Premadasa made common cause to secure the withdrawal of Indian troops deployed in the island under a 1987 bilateral pact. But three months after the Indians left, both sides resumed fighting.

Thursday's meeting, the first in four years, followed an offer of a "hand of friendship" to the premier, who partially lifted an economic embargo on LTTE-held territory after winning the Aug. 16 parliamentary polls.

Jaffna has been without electricity and telecommunications facilities since the latest round of fighting broke out in June 1990 when the previous peace talks ended abruptly.

The LTTE is now demanding a ceasefire before political issues are taken up.

Former airforce chief, Harry Gunatillake, who is close to the government has advocated a truce but warned that the lull should be used to build up armed forces to launch an offensive if the Tigers pull out of current peace talks.

India frees top Kashmiri rebel leader

NEW DELHI (R) — India Friday freed top Kashmiri secessionist leader Shabir Shah, who has spent 14 of the past 20 years in jail, as part of a drive to settle a bloody revolt in the Himalayan region.

A government spokesman said Mr. Shah, the 40-year-old leader of the People's League, was released in Jammu, winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, a day after his deputy was freed.

Officials said the release of Mr. Shah and his deputy, Abdul Salam Rather, was to help create conditions for elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

New Delhi, which has been fighting the revolt since January, 1990, wants to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir by March despite their rejection by the main rebel coordination body in Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

Mr. Shah was last jailed

under tough anti-terrorist legislation in 1989, accused of heading to Pakistan to buy arms to fuel the revolt, which exploded a few months later, and has been held without trial ever since.

Officials say Mr. Shah has been saying that the bloody Kashmir conflict, in which hospitals and police have reported more than 17,000 deaths, was clearly not going to bring about negotiations on the region's future.

Romanian court jails Britons over 'baby for sale'

BUCHAREST (R) — A Bucharest court sentenced a British couple Friday to two years and four months in jail for buying and trying to smuggle a baby out of Romania, court officials said.

A lawyer for Adrian and Bernadette Mooney said she immediately lodged an appeal and had applied for them to be released on bail pending a hearing.

"This is a very harsh sentence," defence lawyer Ioana Floca told Reuters. "I did not expect this sentence." They might have gotten a punitive sentence but not this harsh.

The Mooneys, arrested on July 6 with a five-month-old baby hidden in their car, were prosecuted under new adoption laws to stem baby trafficking since Romania's 1989 overthrow of communism.

Until now they have been released on bail allowing them to see a three year old daughter, Grace Angela, they adopted legally from Romania in 1991.

Ms. Floca said the couple, who were not in court when the judgement of guilty was read, could face immediate imprisonment. "In theory they could be arrested even today."

The court ordered the Mooneys be expelled from Romania once they served their sentences. They got two years for trying to smuggle the baby and two years four months for buying her. Under Romanian law they must serve the longer of the sentences.

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On Sept. 23, two days after KNBC aired its first report on the DNA tests, the police department said it had begun an international investigation and had tightened controls on information in the Simpson case.

The defence also has asked for an attorney general's investigation into the leaks. District attorney Gil Garcetti said no one in his office had been subpoenaed for the hearing.

In a brief status hearing, Judge Ito told lawyers that because of Thursday's delay, he would have to postpone questioning of a second panel of prospective jurors, who had been scheduled to appear Monday.

In the first day of detailed questioning Wednesday, only four prospects were quizzed, and three were kept on. The process will continue until 12 jurors and eight alternates are found.

Hostage killed in Hong Kong shootout

HONG KONG (R) — A gunman died in a shootout with police and his Korean businessman hostage was also killed after a car chase through Hong Kong early Friday, police said.

The Korean was shot dead after trying to overpower the gunman who had taken him and a woman passerby hostage in a hijacked taxi, the taxi driver said Friday.

It was not immediately clear whether the Korean, reported to be a computer engineer, was killed by police bullets or shot by his captor.

The hostage-taker, identified in newspapers as 23-year-old Cheng Cho-Yau, was killed by police. The woman hostage survived. Three policemen were wounded, none seriously.

The gunman used a Chinese pistol to hold up a policeman in Hong Kong's central business district in the

early hours of Friday morning and stole his gun and police radio.

He then stopped a taxi carrying the Korean, grabbed a female passerby, climbed in and forced the driver to head for the south of the island, police said.

Police gave chase and intercepted the hijacked taxi near the crowded Aberdeen Harbour typhoon shelter. The gunman sprayed police with bullets and they returned fire.

The taxi driver, who sustained only a sprained ankle, said he could not tell who fired the fatal bullets.

"The man passenger tried to grab the gun and I saw them struggling and I turned round to help get the gun," he told a Hong Kong television station.

"Police then opened the taxi door and fired into the

Simpson defence subpoenas news team, police chief and spokesman to trace leaks

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's lawyers subpoenaed two members of a TV news team, the police chief and his spokesman to try to find the source of persistent news leaks that could hurt the defence.

The development Thursday came as jury selection in Simpson's murder trial was halted because one of the prosecutors was sick.

The panel of about 80 prospective jurors was told to return Friday morning.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito scheduled a hearing Friday afternoon on a defence request to find the source of the leaks that began the day after Simpson's ex-wife and her friend were killed.

Judge Ito has threatened to ban television coverage of the trial because of what he called false and irresponsible reporting.

"These leaks began on the morning of June 13, 1994, and have continued to the present," said a sealed defence motion, which itself had been leaked to reporters. "The material leaked to the media has included false, distorted and otherwise misleading 'evidence.'"

Defence lawyers said they want to know whether member of the Los Angeles Police Department are responsible

for spreading false information. If so, they would seek sanctions against the prosecution.

The prosecution filed a motion under seal Thursday opposing any sanctions for alleged "intentional contamination" of the jury pool, presumably denying they were responsible for news leaks.

Simpson, 47, has pleaded innocent to murder charges in the slaying deaths for the June 12 murders of Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and Ronald Goldman, 25, although trial testimony is at least a month away, reports about evidence have surfaced regularly in the media, most of them linking Simpson to the crime.

Those who said they received subpoenas to testify Friday included KNBC-TV reporter Tracie Savage and station General Manager Carol Black.

Judge chastised the station last month for a story about DNA test results that he said was wrong. Ms. Savage later said her sources provided some inaccurate information, but that they wouldn't specify what was wrong with the story.

KNBC said Ms. Savage and Ms. Black would appear in court and invoke First

Amendment protections as well as the California Shield Law, which protects reporters from being compelled to reveal confidential sources.

CMDR. David Gascon, a police spokesman, said he also was subpoenaed. Defence lawyer Johnnie Cochran Jr. said a subpoena was served on Police Chief Willie Williams.

On Sept. 23, two days after KNBC aired its first report on the DNA tests, the police department said it had begun an international investigation and had tightened controls on information in the Simpson case.

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French minister 'to go within days'

PARIS (AFP) — Embattled French Industry Minister Gerard Longuet is expected to resign within days to make way for a government reshuffle by premier Edouard Balladur, press reports said Friday.

Amid unprecedented pressure over corruption scandals, Mr. Balladur was reported to have discussed the minister's resignation with Defence Minister Francois Leotard at a meeting at his Matignon residence Thursday.

In an apparent acknowledgment that the pressure could force him to go, or be pushed, Mr. Longuet was quoted Friday as having said at the end of a speech: "Thus

I finish my speech which could well be my testament."

Mr. Longuet's resignation has been expected for weeks since he was accused in a report by an anti-corruption magistrate of corruption in connection of the financing of his Saint Tropez villa.

He has not yet been charged, pending a probe due to be completed by the end of October.

The daily Le Figaro said the ministerial reshuffle could be announced during the day Friday, but in any case is expected before the weekly meeting of the French cabinet next Wednesday.

The centre-right newspaper quoted a source close to the French premier as saying:

"It's a question of days."

Le Figaro and the leftist Liberation reported that Mr. Longuet is to be replaced by Jean-Claude Gaudin, a senator from the Republican Party (PR) of which Mr. Longuet is the president.

The reports come after a crescendo of pressure on Mr. Balladur's Gaullist government following the holding in custody of former Communications Minister Alain Carignon on corruption charges earlier this week.

Both Mr. Longuet and Mr. Carignon have been key supporters of Mr. Balladur's coalition government, and in particular of his hopes for the French presidency in elections next April and May.

Macedonia stays defiant ahead of polls

SKOPJE (AFP) — Three years after independence voters in Macedonia go to the polls Sunday to elect a new president and parliament for a country without friends in the region, prey to the demands and designs of its neighbours.

But outgoing President Kiro Gligorov, 77, the favourite to win a new term of office, is defiant, in particular over its quarrel with southern neighbour Greece.

Two unpublicised meetings in Skopje this month between Greek and Macedonian diplomats failed to make progress toward resolving the dispute, centring on the use of Macedonia's very name.

Athens says the name can

only be applied to its own northern province, which it accuses Skopje of seeking to take over, and is demanding changes to the Macedonian constitution and flag.

To this end Greece has imposed a blockade on Macedonian goods. But the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as it is officially known to the United Nations pending resolution of the dispute, considers it can hold out.

Mr. Gligorov said recently: "If I had wanted to change the name we would have already done it. But we have no reason to do it, given that the name of Macedonia is practically accepted everywhere."

This battle is ended."

The reason talks with Greece were continuing, Mr. Gligorov said, was "to reach compromises and reconcile our economic and regional interests."

But he stressed that "nothing which affects the identity of our country and our people is subject to compromise."

Reliable sources here said one idea was to adopt three names, to be used as required. "New Macedonia" would be for diplomatic use, "Republic of Macedonia" for internal use, and a third name, yet to be decided, would be for relations with Greece.

Turkey, Greece on U.N. list as big tank importers

UNITED NATIONS (R) — For the second consecutive year Turkey and Greece appeared to be the biggest importers of tanks in 1993, according to the latest U.N. arms register.

The register, appearing for the second year, lists replies from more than 80 countries concerning their import and/or export of seven different categories of weapons. About half of them reported neither imports nor exports.

The United States registered the export of 932 battle tanks to Turkey and 671 to Greece while Germany said it sent 85 tanks to Turkey and 54 to Greece including 22 which arrived only this year. This would give a total of 1,017 imported tanks for Turkey and 725 for Greece.

However, Turkey, in its list of arms imports, said it received only 454 tanks from the United States and 85 from Germany, for a total of 539. Greece said it obtained

324 from the United States, 54 from Germany and 72 from the Netherlands, for a total of 450.

In last year's U.N. arms register, Turkey and Greece said they each imported more than 400 battle tanks during 1992, while arms manufacturing countries reported exporting a total of nearly 600 tanks to each.

The discrepancies are likely to stem mainly from differences in the perceived dates of transfer and in the definition of what constitutes a reportable transfer.

The register is published annually in accordance with a 1991 General Assembly resolution calling on U.N. members to provide details of weapons transfers in hopes that greater openness would enhance confidence, promote stability and help ease tensions.

The British American Security Information Council (BASIC), an independent re-

search organisation with offices in Washington and London, said the U.N. register showed the United States remained the world's dominant arms exporter.

Its exports during 1993 included 2,393 tanks, 832 armoured combat vehicles, 296 large-calibre artillery systems, 96 combat aircraft, 75 attack helicopters and 2,899 missiles or missile launchers.

BASIC's deputy director Natalie Goldring commented: "The United States is driving the international arms market and in some regions is engaged in an arms race with itself."

Germany was said to be the next largest supplier of major conventional weapons, exporting 242 tanks, 383 armoured combat vehicles, 10 large-calibre artillery systems, 93 combat aircraft, 24 ships and 1,020 missiles or missile launchers.

Russia said its exports included 100 tanks to Iran and

20 to Angola 357 armoured fighting vehicles (35 to Angola, 115 to Turkey, 80 to Iran, 95 to the United Arab Emirates, 12 to Bangladesh, and 20 to Uzbekistan) 14 large-calibre artillery systems, to Angola 33 combat aircraft (28 to Hungary and five to Slovakia) and one ship (to Iran).

China's exports included 35 tanks to Pakistan and 77 combat aircraft (25 to Iran, 40 to Pakistan and 12 to Burma, also called Mya-ma).

Britain said it exported 21 tanks, to Nigeria 72 armoured combat vehicles (seven to the Philippines and 65 to Saudi Arabia) 29 combat aircraft (two to Finland, one to Oman, 10 to South Korea and 16 to the United Arab Emirates) three ships (two to Pakistan and one to Portugal) and 526 missiles or missile launchers (198 to Saudi Arabia and 328 to the United Arab Emirates).

Fans injured as stand at Pink Floyd concert collapses

LONDON (AP) — A stand packed with Pink Floyd fans collapsed as the rock band took the stage Wednesday, injuring scores of people but not seriously.

Organisers cancelled the concert — to have launched Pink Floyd's first world tour in seven years — and told the more than 15,000 in attendance at Earls Court Exhibition Centre in west London to leave. Most of those on the 20-foot-high stand supporting several rows of red plastic seats were able to walk away with only bumps, scrapes or shock. Scotland Yard said about 35 people were treated at the scene. At least one woman was trapped under scaffolding until firefighters could free her. Eight people suffered cuts and suspected broken bones and were taken to local hospitals, police said. "We believe no one is seriously hurt," said Sgt. Michael Tate, duty police officer at Earls Court, one of London's biggest rock venues.

China losing anti-porn battle

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese authorities are losing their battle against pornography, which is spreading out of control because of inadequate law enforcement and administrative disorder, an official newspaper said Wednesday. "For the time being, the ban on illegal and pornographic publications cannot be effectively enforced and the problem is continuing to spread," the influential Guangming Daily said. The newspaper for intellectuals said new pornographic publications were continuously springing up, together with "counterrevolutionary" works from Taiwan and Hong Kong that "vilify our leaders and reveal state and military secrets." The Chinese authorities seized nearly six million books and magazines in the first half of this year which violated copyright laws or were deemed excessively violent and pornographic. The figure compared with the three million confiscated during the whole of 1993. Publishing is subject to strict state control in China, and book numbers are traded illegally to allow print runs of works that have not received official approval.

Researcher: 'Wasabi' helps fight cancer

TOKYO (R) — Japanese horseradish, a traditional accompaniment to sushi, is effective in stopping stomach-cancer cells from multiplying, a Japanese researcher said Friday. When certain amounts of "wasabi" were added to human stomach-cancer cells, the cells markedly stopped multiplying and in some cases were even killed, said Yoko Fuke, associate professor of food and nutrition at Tachikawa College in Tokyo. Experiments on the properties of Wasabi were jointly conducted by researchers at Tachikawa College and the Skylark Food Science Institute. Raw grated wasabi adds a pungent flavour to many Japanese dishes, particularly those using raw fish such as sushi and sashimi.

New Jersey bans community bans verbal profanity

RARITAN, N.J. (AP) — Watch your tongue in Raritan. The borough council approved an amendment Tuesday that bans cursing in public in the quiet town about 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of New York City. The measure, passed 5-0, with one abstention. Mayor Anthony Decicco had said last week that most of the borough's 5,800 residents, many of whom are senior citizens, supported the ban. But Police Chief Joseph Sferia opposes it, saying his department won't arrest people for behavior which, in his opinion, has been upheld by the courts. To enforce such a law would be inviting a lawsuit, he said. "That's his decision as of now," Mr. Decicco said Tuesday. "Until it becomes law, he can say whatever he likes." The amendment becomes law once it is advertised in a local paper where residents can see it, which should take only a few days. Mr. Decicco said there have been no incidents of rude behaviour in the borough but he wanted the ban as a "protective measure" to protect the quality of life.



A man (centre), pointed out by the crowd as an "attache," tries to escape while pushing a photographer out of his way Thursday outside the Haitian army headquarters in Port-au-Prince. The man later sought protection from nearby U.S. soldiers (AFP photo)

N. Koreans confident U.S. nuclear deal at hand

GENEVA (Agencies) — North Korean officials expressed confidence Friday a deal was at hand with the United States that would clear the way for reshaping their country's nuclear energy programme and ending a war threat in East Asia.

"Both sides are endeavouring to produce a satisfactory agreement. I think they will succeed," said a source close to Pyongyang's delegation to long-running Geneva talks on an accord — now moving to a climax.

The source, clearly reflecting an optimistic mood among the North Korean team led by First Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju, was speaking as experts from the two sides met for the second day of what both sides said were crucial discussions.

There was no immediate comment from the U.S. side, headed by Ambassador-at-Large Robert Gallucci. But earlier South Korea's Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo told officials in Seoul the North and the Americans were close to agreement.

South Korea, which has expressed fears the United States might go too far towards making what Seoul sees as "dangerous compromises" in the search for an agreement, has been kept abreast of the negotiations by Washington.

On Thursday, the experts met for about 11 hours in Geneva in a bid to break the deadlock that has blocked the talks since they began on Sept. 23. The Thursday meet-

ing followed new U.S. proposals from Mr. Gallucci to Mr. Kang earlier in the week.

The aim of the talks is to formalise an outline accord in August under which North Korea agreed to freeze its current graphite nuclear programme — plutonium from which could be used to make atomic weapons.

In return, the United States agreed it would put together an international consortium — including South Korea, Japan, Russia and Germany — to finance and supply a light-water reactor produces little plutonium.

Sticking points in the negotiations have included a North Korean demand for around \$2 billion in compensation for power lost during the freeze and its refusal to agree to open up two suspect sites to outside inspection.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations' Vienna-based nuclear watchdog, says the sites, at Yongbyon north of Pyongyang, could provide evidence of whether the Communist North has already made nuclear devices.

The United States has insisted that as part of an overall agreement Pyongyang must formally commit itself to allowing the IAEA to take a detailed look at Yongbyon. The North says it will ensure "transparency" once the new technology is installed.

But the South Korean foreign minister told an advisory

board on unification in Seoul that the North had displayed flexibility during the past few days of talks and an accord would be reached either Friday or Saturday.

"South Korea would play a central role in the building of light-water reactors. And the North must accept nuclear inspections before the actual construction of the reactors begins," a ministry spokesman quoted Mr. Han as saying.

"But there are some details regarding resumption of dialogue between the two Koreas to be settled."

South Korean Unification Minister Lee Hong-Koo also told the National Assembly an agreement was expected this weekend.

The South Korean News Agency, Yonhap, said the United States and North Korea were having last-minute discussions on when to resume a stalled dialogue between the two Koreas — split since 1945 and bitter enemies since the 1950-53 Korean War.

The agency said the draft for an accord in Geneva called for a resumption of dialogue within three months of the agreement's announcement, while the north was still insisting such dialogue was a matter solely for the two Koreas.

The U.S. draft also said North Korea must guarantee its past nuclear transparency with the arrival of the core equipment for the construction of the light-water reactors in North Korea, accord-

ing to Yonhap.

It also proposed that North Korea and the United States establish liaison offices in each other's capitals within six months. The two sides reached outlined agreement on this in Pyongyang last month.

Mr. Lee Friday spelled out what he called the "five principles" of Seoul's position for ending disputes over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

"The five principles will remain the basic position of South Korea and are being translated into reality as agreed upon with the United States," Mr. Lee said.

South Korea will accept the outcome of the Geneva talks "if they do not deviate from these principles," Mr. Lee said.

The five principles are: —1. North Korea's nuclear development programme must be suspended and frozen.

2. The nuclear question and other issues on the Korean peninsula must be solved through peaceful means.

3. Talks must resume between the South and the North to implement the (inter-Korean) Joint Declaration of the Korean Peninsula.

4. North Korea's nuclear transparency must be guaranteed.

5. South Korea must assume a leading role in constructing light-water reactors to replace graphite reactors in the North.

feared journalists could further jeopardise the sensitive process.

Another government official said there were hopes that the defectors might have brought the three Western hostages out with them.

The Khmer Rouge seized Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, Briton Mark Slater, 28, and Australian David Wilson, 29, in a bloody train ambush July 26.

The three backpackers were taken to a guerrilla base on the nearby rain-drenched

and malarial Phnom Vour (Vine Mountain).

Khmer Rouge Commander Paet originally demanded a ransom of some \$150,000 in gold for the release of the three.

But the Khmer Rouge leadership then stepped in and complicated matters with political demands that the recently outlawed faction be made legal again and that Western powers cease all military assistance to the Phnom Penh government.

The Alliance 90/Greens grouping, which wants to abolish nuclear energy and introduce a stringent highway speed limit, dissolve the NATO military alliance and phase out the armed forces, is nevertheless seeking to present itself as a credible coalition partner.

Mr. Kohl and Mr. Kinkel say such a coalition would cause a loss of business confidence and alarm Germany's allies.

Mr. Scharping, who has distanced himself from the Greens' pacifist proposals, has also shied away from holding out any pre-election promise of a deal with them, and this has increased speculation that the SPD would be ready to enter into a national coalition with Mr. Kohl's party.

If the FDP is out of parliament and the Christian Union parties do not have an absolute majority, a "grand coalition" of CDU/CSU with SPD could be the result. Mr. Kohl and Mr. Scharping have both publicly rejected the prospect, but their party lieutenants have hinted at the possibility.

There is a tradition of consensus and cooperation between the post-war political parties in Germany.

A grand coalition could thus be reassembled simply as

Serb artillery bids to pin down Bosnians before supply route attack

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — A massive artillery barrage in the Mostar area aims to pin down Bosnian government forces ahead of an assault on a strategic government supply route further north, a senior U.N. Protection Force spokesman said Friday.

Serbs were moving troops into position near the key town of Konjic, some 45 kilometres southwest of Sarajevo, which protects a vital all-weather supply route from the Croatian coast to the Bosnian capital and the northern city of Tuzla, said Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer.

Three days of fighting on Mount Velez intensified Thursday with some 700 mortar and heavy artillery shell detonations reported, he said. Serb gunners fired 90 per cent of the shells with 500 concentrated on Podgorani, north of the city, Spicer added.

The local commander of the Muslim-dominated Bosnian army, General Ramiz Drekovic, said the Serbs aim to take Bijelo Polje, north of Mostar, and cut the Mostar-Jablanica road, the only all-weather route from the Croatian coast to Sarajevo.

Although the heavy shelling made the road hazardous Col. Spicer said cutting the road was not the Serbs' main objective, and linked the barrage to troop movements around the Konjic area.

"What we believe is happening is that the intensive artillery fire down in Mostar is an attempt by the BSA (Bosnian Serb Army) to fix any BiH (Bosnian army) forces in this area while they

continue to prepare for a possible offensive" around Konjic.

"This offensive has not taken place but we've seen a lot of troop movement in the area and that would make sense in military terms (and) tactical terms," he said.

Meanwhile, fighting north of Sarajevo died down Thursday after intense clashes on the Cernerska Planina feature south of the government-held town of Olovo.

The region has been the scene of bitter fighting throughout the war, as control of the plateau enables the Bosnians to harass a Serb supply route to the east and protect the Sarajevo-Vares road along which goods and equipment are ferried north to Tuzla.

The Serbs appeared to have made some gains, taking the Mosevicko Brdo feature on the plateau, said Col. Spicer.

Both sides had probably run out of steam and were regrouping and resupplying, said the spokesman, adding the burial in nearby Breza of a Bosnian battalion commander in the fighting may have been another factor.

The funeral was attended by a senior Pakistani U.N. officer, a move which raised eyebrows within UNPROFOR given Serb sensitivities to the deployment of troops from Muslim nations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"It doesn't take the brain of an archbishop to know that it was not very clever," said one senior U.N. official who did not wish to be identified. UNPROFOR expected the

fighting to resume once both sides had ironed out logistics problems.

Reconnaissance in the Olovo area, which borders the northern limit of the Sarajevo 20-kilometre (12.5-mile) heavy weapons exclusion zone (TEZ) had shown Serb artillery had not been fired from within the TEZ at Bosnian positions, Col. Spicer added.

In the Hague, a Bosnian Serb was named Friday as the subject of the first international war crimes investigation since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after World War II.

The U.N. Yugoslavia War Crimes Tribunal said that prosecutor Richard Goldstone wanted Germany to suspend proceedings against Dusan Tadic as his own office was investigating the case and planned to lay charges.

Mr. Tadic, a 38-year-old Bosnian Serb, was arrested in Germany in February on suspicion of killing, beating and torturing Croat and Muslim prisoners at the Omarska prison camp and two other camps in the Prijedor region of northwest Bosnia.

He is also alleged to have taken part in ethnic cleansing operations during the 30-month Bosnian conflict.

The German authorities said at the time of his arrest that Mr. Tadic was a "fanatical devotee of the greater Serbian cause."

Mr. Goldstone will ask the tribunal on Nov. 8 for permission to lodge a formal request with Germany to take over the case. He will base his application on a preliminary investigation by Michael Keegan, an attorney at his office.

In a written declaration Mr. Keegan said: "Tadic did not hold a routine position at the (Omarska) camp, but was brought in, or allowed in, for the specific purpose of torturing and killing those non-Serbs perceived to be part of the leadership, or a prominent part, of the Muslim or non-Serb community."

"His daily presence in the camp involved the beating, torture and murder of prisoners. He had the authority to direct the actions of those men who accompanied him and of known camp guards."

A statement released by Mr. Goldstone's office said that Mr. Tadic's case was "important to the prosecution of those persons responsible for committing the serious violations of international humanitarian law which occurred ... in the Prijedor region of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

It said the acts allegedly committed by Mr. Tadic before and after the Serbian takeover of the area "would provide a clear illustration of a plan for the widespread and systematic destructive persecution against the civilian population of the region, commonly referred to as ethnic cleansing."

The tribunal is the first international war crimes panel since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after World War II. It was set up by the U.N. Security Council to try those suspected of atrocities such as murders, rape and torture.

Diplomats: Angolan powersharing pact removes last hurdle to peace

LUSAKA (AFP) — Angola's rebel UNITA movement Friday agreed government demands on local powersharing thereby removing the last hurdle to a final peace settlement in Angola's 18-year civil war, diplomats said here.

Diplomats said UNITA officials met U.N. mediators early Friday to accept the government offer on the

administration of the communes and municipalities unblocking the peace accord.

"This afternoon they will meet at a plenary session to adopt the document on the administration of communes and municipalities and hence close the chapter on power sharing," the diplomats said.

A UNITA official said that after the adoption of the

document, all that needed to be done was to draw up a timetable for the implementation of the peace accord.

"This will not take us up to Monday and UNITA have already planned to leave for Huambo early next week to ratify the agreement and announce our ceasefire," he added.

Vranitzky to form new Austrian government

VIENNA (R) — Social Democrat leader Franz Vranitzky Friday received a mandate to form a new government from Austrian President Thomas Klestil at a ceremony witnessed by reporters in the presidency.

Mr. Vranitzky, Austria's chancellor for the past eight years, was expected to renew his coalition with the con-

servative People's Party.

"I have given the mandate to form the new government to Mr. Vranitzky as the leader of the strongest party," Mr. Klestil said.

Mr. Vranitzky's Social Democrats and his conservative coalition partners together slumped 12 per cent in Sunday's general election in their worst showing since

World War II.

"I accepted the mandate gladly," Mr. Vranitzky told reporters as he left the presidency building.

Asked how long he believed it would take to build a new coalition team, he said he had a "concrete time-frame in mind which can be measured in weeks."



Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi receives a guard of honour upon arrival at Vnukovo Airport. Mr. Berlusconi arrived in Moscow for a three-day official visit (AFP photo)

Strike brings Italy to standstill

ROME (AFP) — Italy came to a standstill Friday as a general strike called by labour unions over planned budget cuts began, with the government saying it would negotiate with unions if the demonstrations remained peaceful.

Workers, retirees, young people and citizens in about 100 cities nationwide expressed today their enormous distrust in the government's budget," Pietro Larizza, secretary general of one of the main labour unions (UIL) told a rally in Milan.

The strike call, involving nearly 30 million Italians, was in response to pension reforms and other austerity measures aimed at containing the more than \$100-billion budget deficit.

The cuts, about 50,000 billion lire (\$31 billion), will affect pension coverage which, Italian officials say, is fraught with fraud.

Deputy Prime Minister Giuseppe Tatarella, faced with a political backlash, said Friday that the government

long as the demonstrations remained peaceful.

Protests were underway in Rome, Palermo, Turin, Milan and dozens of other cities where up to three million people were expected to turn out.

Union officials said 150,000 people demonstrated in Rome, but police put the number at 50,000.

The protesters, who included government employees, marched from the city's main train station to the Saint John Basilica in an atmosphere of good humour. Many blew whistles and shouted slogans against Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who is currently in Russia on a three-day official trip.

Most of the protesters sported stickers that read "Silvio, take a look at this crowd", in response to Mr. Berlusconi's prediction that the strike would be "anything but general."

Others had stickers that said "Turn him off" with Mr. Berlusconi's face on a televi-

sion screen.

"I am demonstrating because the financial law takes from the poor to give to the rich," said Giovanna, 24, an employee at the Culture Ministry.

The country's three largest labour unions called for the strike to last four hours but several employee representatives said it would last all day.

Minimum service was however guaranteed at banks, the postal service and other parts of the public sector.

The hardest hit sector appeared to be the transport sector with buses and trams coming to a halt in various cities. Train service was to be suspended between 10 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (0900 and 1300 GMT) and flights were to be suspended between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. (1300 and 1700 GMT).

Newspapers also were not published Friday as print and broadcast journalists observed the strike. Three-

Anticipated Khmer Rouge defectors fail to show up

PHNOM PENH (AFP) —

High ranking military officials left here for the southern Cambodian province of Kampot Friday following reports that Khmer Rouge guerrillas holding three Western hostages would desert, but the defectors failed to materialise.

"The plan has been broken," a high ranking military source, who asked not to be identified, said.

Chief of Staff General Ke Kimyan and several other senior officers left for Kam-

pot after receiving a report Thursday that some 100 Khmer Rouge guerrillas might defect. Gen. Ke Kimyan's Secretary General Oarn Kamsot told AFP.

The high-ranking military source said he had been "optimistic" that the guerrillas would actually desert but said they failed to show up after the plan became public and they became "worried about their security."

The source blamed other senior officers for publicising the information and said he

feared journalists could further jeopardise the sensitive process.

Another government official said there were hopes that the defectors might have brought the three Western hostages out with them.

The Khmer Rouge seized Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, Briton Mark Slater, 28, and Australian David Wilson, 29, in a bloody train ambush July 26.

The three backpackers were taken to a guerrilla base on the nearby rain-drenched

and malarial Phnom Vour (Vine Mountain).

Khmer Rouge Commander Paet originally demanded a ransom of some \$150,000 in gold for the release of the three.

But the Khmer Rouge leadership then stepped in and complicated matters with political demands that the recently outlawed faction be made legal again and that Western powers cease all military assistance to the Phnom Penh government.

German voters to decide if time is right for change

BONN (AFP) — German voters will decide Sunday

whether Chancellor Helmut Kohl's 12-year-old centre-right coalition continues to govern the country or if the time has come for a change.

Mr. Kohl is facing a challenge headed by the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), who hope the results that emerge from the ballot boxes will make their leader, Rudolf Scharping, the chancellor in a new SPD-led government.

At two days before the general election, the chances of survival for the present coalition of Christian Union (CDU/CSU) and Free Democrat (FDP) parties were looking relatively good.

Opinion polls, stockbrokers and bookmakers have hardly changed their predictions of the last two weeks, which is that Mr. Kohl, 64, will win and that Mr. Scharping, 46, will have to fight again another day.

But much depends on the score of the smaller parties, whose support will very likely be vital in ensuring a working government majority for which ever party is in a position to lead the next government.

The fate of Mr. Kohl and his party, and the chances of the opposition getting in, depend to a great extent on the

Democrats led by Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

If the little liberal party fails to win the five per cent of the vote necessary to win a seat in parliament, this would not only be a disaster for Mr. Kinkel and the FDP, it would probably deprive Mr. Kohl of a majority too.

In six successive regional parliament elections and the European elections in June, the FDP has failed to clear the five per cent hurdle, and the liberals have been making frantic last-minute efforts to summon up votes.

In the last federal legislative election, in December 1990 just two months after the reunification of east and west Germany, an FDP headed by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, then foreign minister, scored 11 per cent.

Mr. Kohl and Mr. Kinkel have repeatedly declared themselves convinced the FDP will be in the next Bundestag (lower house of parliament). "The fat man can't make it without us," the liberal leader has said of the burly, big chancellor.

For months Mr. Kohl has hammered away at the danger which, he says, a "red-green" coalition of the SPD with the environmentalist Greens would represent: For the economy and for Germany as a reliable allied partner.

The Alliance 90/Greens grouping, which wants to abolish nuclear energy and introduce a stringent highway speed limit, dissolve the NATO military alliance and phase out the armed forces, is nevertheless seeking to present itself as a credible coalition partner.

Mr. Kohl and Mr. Kinkel say such a coalition would cause a loss of business confidence and alarm Germany's allies.

Mr. Scharping, who has distanced himself from the Greens' pacifist proposals, has also shied away from holding out any pre-election promise of a deal with them, and this has increased speculation that the SPD would be ready to enter into a national coalition with Mr. Kohl's party.

If the FDP is out of parliament and the Christian Union parties do not have an absolute majority, a "grand coalition" of CDU/CSU with SPD could be the result. Mr. Kohl and Mr. Scharping have both publicly rejected the prospect, but their party lieutenants have hinted at the possibility.

There is a tradition of consensus and cooperation between the post-war political parties in Germany.

A grand coalition could thus be reassembled simply as

tion, some analysts say.

But Mr. Kohl said in a televised interview broadcast Thursday night that a "grand coalition" could lead to a "considerable crumbling of the political lines" and "encourage right- and left-wing extremism."

There is a "joker in the pack" — the ex-German ex-communists of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), who could theoretically find themselves in the position of deciding who is the next chancellor, if they are able to enter parliament by direct mandate, in which case the five per cent rule falls away.

Mr. Kohl has repeatedly accused Mr. Scharping of secretly envisaging an SPD-Greens coalition with the support in parliament of those whom he has branded as "red-painted fascists."

But Mr. Scharping has insisted he would not allow himself to be chosen as chancellor with the voters of the direct inheritors of the party which maintained a hated 40-year Stalinist dictatorship over the eastern part of the country.

Latest surveys of voter intentions gave the CDU/CSU 42-43 per cent of the vote, the SPD 35-38 per cent, the Greens eight per cent, the FDP 5-7 per cent and the

Jordan Times

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Bond for all times

THE RECENT agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on future economic and financial relations is not the first of its kind, nor might it be the last. There were several previous accords covering essentially the same subject matters only to be repudiated by deeds if not by words by the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA) at a later stage. The underlying reason for not honouring past deals is obviously political and stems basically from lack of trust. It is unfortunate that the PLO still views its national interests as running counter to those of Jordan, which has stood by Palestinian people all along. Had Jordan seen a conflict of interest between itself and the new Palestinian entity, it would not have provided it with the necessary umbrella to join the peace process in the first place. The record of the Kingdom on unequivocal support for the Palestinian cause is clear and speaks for itself. Even the latest flareup in Palestinian-Jordanian relations over custody of Islamic shrines in Jerusalem would have been avoided had there been a minimum reservoir of goodwill between the two parties. At a time when Jordan wanted to fill a vacuum created by the absence of a Palestinian authority in East Jerusalem, the PNA continued to regard our intentions with only suspicion. This is not the way to establish bridges or to cement relations between the two sides. As for Jordan's keen interest to maintain and protect the Jordanian currency in the West Bank, the PNA should have been the first to recognise the importance of this policy. After all, the Palestinian people would be the first to benefit from a strong and stable Jordanian dinar given the fact that quite a big chunk of our currency is still being circulated in the Palestinian territories.

Given these close geographic and demographic links between Jordan and Palestine, it would seem nonsensical to exact a heavy price on goods and services originating in this country. Over and above these considerations, a pertinent question has to be asked: which country could be a better trade partner with the Palestinian side than Jordan. Geographic proximity and shared history and national interests would clearly point to the necessity of forging the closest of ties between Jordanians and Palestinians on all fronts. Instead of severing the umbilical cord between the two banks of the Jordan River, the PNA should strive to consolidate past and existing contacts beginning with economic and financial ones and ending with political strategies and objectives. Amman has extended its hand to the PLO over and over again. It is high time that the Palestinian leadership reciprocated these Jordanian overtures in kind.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i drew a contrast between the atmosphere of terrorism imposed by the Israelis on the Palestinian people and the American armada being massed against Iraq in the Gulf area. The Israelis have without due cause closed the Gaza Strip under the pretext that they would search for the kidnapped Israeli soldier although they know that he was abducted inside Israel with no indication that he was taken to the Gaza Strip, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said the same thing is happening in the Gulf where the American are massing ground, sea and air forces to launch an aggression on Iraq though they know that no more Iraqi forces are massed near the border with Kuwait. The writer said that Israel is dealing with acts of terror against the Palestinians while the big Washington in the United States is creating a war atmosphere for the Gulf region aimed at causing further suffering to the Arab people of Iraq, he said.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour urged the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to release the kidnapped Israeli soldier and so prove to the world that it is a freedom fighter force not oriented to commit acts of terrorism. Hamadeh Faraneh said the appeal made to the kidnappers by the mother of the detained soldier reminds the Israeli society and the world at large of the thousands of Arab women whose sons are still detained in Israeli jails for their resistance to occupation and repression. The writer said the release of the soldier can send a signal to the Israeli society that Hamas and the rest of the resistances in Palestine are intent on ending their suffering through ending the occupation and that Hamas is not inclined on perpetuating bloodshed. The writer expressed hope that the leaders of Hamas and other Palestinian leaders would ensure the release of the Israeli soldiers as a good will gesture that could encourage the Israelis to release Palestinian detainees.

Jordanian Perspective

Gulf needs a peace package

THERE CANNOT but be one explanation to the Iraqi military movement that led to fears of a new invasion of Kuwait and the American buildup in the Gulf — Baghdad wanted to bring international attention to the continuing sanctions against Iraq and tell the world that despite its compliance with the relevant conditions dictated by the U.N. Security Council there was little sign of lifting the crippling embargo.

The point is debatable whether a military stunt was the best means to serve the Iraqi purpose; but the fact remains that Baghdad did manage to focus the world's attention on the Gulf and of course on the four-year-old sanctions. However, all indications are that Iraq might end up just the opposite of what it sought since the U.S. is considering more humiliating terms and conditions on Baghdad as the price for averting a fresh military strike on Iraq rather than any movement towards lifting the sanctions.

Where does that leave Iraq and the rest of the Middle East and the Gulf? What prospects would it leave for an end to the suffering of the 18 million Iraqi people and hopes that they would be able to feed themselves, treat themselves, and live in freedom away from all coercion in an atmosphere of democracy with all that it entails? How long is it going to take before the U.S. decides that enough is enough and comes to terms with accepting in public that the real victim of its insistence of maintaining the sanctions is the people of Iraq and not the government?

It is no secret that the Gulf states would fight with all their might any easing of the sanctions against Iraq. Apart from their apprehensions over Iraq's military might (despite the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction), they are seriously concerned over the market impact of a return of Iraqi oil into the international scene.

The U.S., even in the unlikely event that it might be inclined to hear the Iraqi appeals, has no choice but to take the Gulf states' concern into consideration. After all, Washington has promised the Gulf states that it would not be any easing of the sanctions on Iraq in return for the Gulf Cooperation Council's decision to lift the secondary and tertiary boycott of Israel and undertaking to support a

total end to the trade embargo on the Jewish state.

Furthermore, an Iraqi return to the oil market with its three million plus barrels of oil per day will seriously depress the oil prices, rendering the military clients of the U.S. unable to settle their bills to the American defence establishment.

On the political front, the Clinton administration, buoyed by the way American military might worked in Haiti, is totally unlikely to entertain any gesture that could be seen as bowing to any military move by anyone in the world, least of all Iraq.

So, the net outcome of the one-week-old imbroglio is not only likely to be naught but also more suffering for the Iraqi people and further worsening of prospects of an end to the Gulf crisis triggered in 1990.

For us in Jordan, what concerns us is the continued suffering of the Iraqi people and the perpetual below-the-surface tensions that could ignite itself into armed conflict in the Gulf if the situation is left unaddressed. If anything, attaching new conditions on Iraq is not going to solve the problem. Iraq is an integral part of the region and a major player if its full potential is exploited.

However, the situation also opens the door for a different diplomatic avenue if the American decision-makers inclined to look at it seriously. This would involve a totally different approach that could possibly lead to not only to wiping the Middle East scene largely clean of military tension and instability but serving the overall purpose of the region's peace process.

The hypothetical scenario would warrant a dead stop to the continuing American military build-up in the Gulf. Instead, Washington strategists have to consider an overall "Middle East peace package" that could not only remove the elements of tension in the context of the Gulf Arabs and Iraq but also bring in the Iraqis into the peace process.

The package, as one could envision it, would include Iraq meeting all requirements specified in the relevant Security Council resolutions, including arms monitoring, recognition of the new U.N.-drawn borders of Kuwait and

respect for human rights. In addition, Iraq could recognize the state of Israel and agree to normalise relations with the Jewish state (lest anyone forget, the Iraqi approach now is that why should Baghdad seek to be more Palestinian, that why should Lebanon and continue to entertain Jordanian, Syrian or Lebanese and continue to entertain hostilities against Israel if the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon have decided to make peace with the Jewish state). And, as "secret" information, "leaked" or otherwise, indicate, Iraq could also do something to help Palestinian refugees.

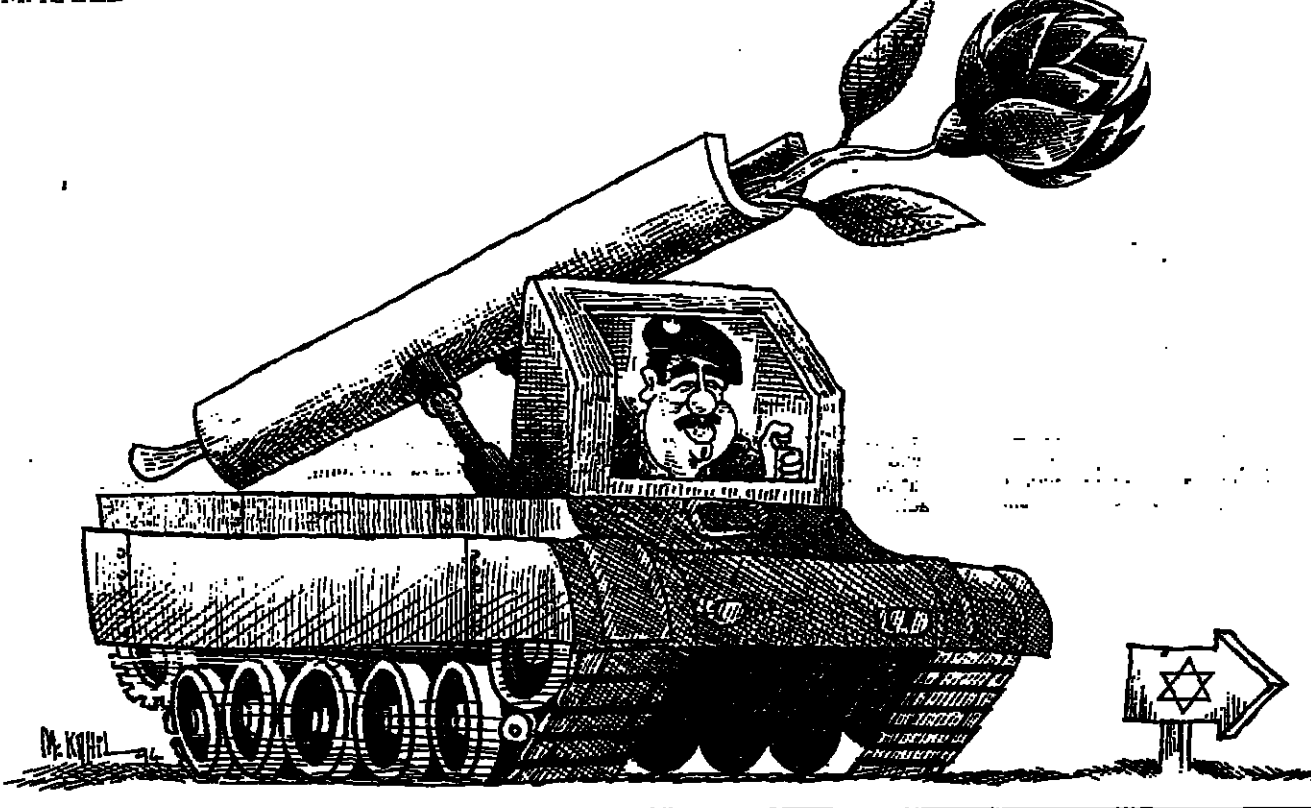
In return for all these moves, Iraq would see a lifting of the sanctions against it but still be bound by the other provisions in the Security Council resolutions such as war reparations etc.

Indeed, at a first look the package would seem too naive, both in political and economic terms. It needs to be polished and made into a diplomatic initiative with all that entails while offering protection for the legitimate interests of all parties concerned, including the Gulf states and all of Iraq's neighbours to the west, as well as the international community. The overriding factor, however, is the assessment of what constitutes "legitimate" interests.

While considering the package, the first thing that comes to mind is whether Washington might even be inclined to consider such an imaginative course of action which is diagonally opposed to its present policies in the Gulf region. But then, it is not simply a foreign policy decision that the Clinton administration has to take but also a major international move towards removing the roots of conflict in the Middle East once and for all.

Of course, there are millions of buts, ifs and howevers in the equation. The Iraqi regime, for reasons of its internal political considerations, could be the first to kick the idea out of the door or try to attach its own conditions to the package. If it does so, then the world can no longer be held responsible, to any extent, for the continued suffering of the people of Iraq although the thought is going to haunt us for a long time to come of an opportunity to set things right in this part of the world.

M. KAHIL



Why the West needs Saddam

As satellite TV prepares for Gulf War III, Robert Fisk questions the motives behind the crisis

FIVE DAYS ago, during an almost unreported visit to Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, made some very odd remarks to his hosts. He urged them to cut spending to overcome their "economic problems" brought on by last year's fall in oil prices. Those problems have led the Saudis to delaying debt repayments (by more than a year, according to some leading Western companies). Then there was the little matter of Saudi Arabia's need to pay off the rest of its \$21bn bill for the 1991 Gulf War. Of course, Mr. Bentsen said, the kingdom's creditworthiness was based on its massive oil reserves.

The consequences for Saudi Arabia of a further fall in oil prices could be severe. But of course that is exactly what would happen if the U.N. lifted its sanctions on Iraq and allowed Iraqi crude to flow once more. That connection between the outcome of the war, the sanctions, oil prices and the economies of the region is not one made by Mr. Bentsen. Yet it is at the heart of what is going on in the region.

That background was ignored by the troops of television correspondents who flocked back to the Gulf last week in the wake of (Iraqi President) Saddam's military manoeuvre about 25-km north of the Kuwaiti border. The Beast of Baghdad, the Hitler of Iraq — doomed after the near-annihilation of his armies according to those same reporters in 1991 — had come back to life, ready to threaten a repeat of his aggression of 1990 and invade rich, vulnerable Kuwait.

The satellite news channels CNN and its sisters —

whose values, it seems, increasingly shape the Western media — have a familiar routine. They turn to their White House correspondents and Pentagon correspondents and State Department correspondents to faithfully convey the Clinton administration's line on Iraq.

In the run-up to congressional elections, of course, Mr. Clinton can "walk tall" against over Iraq. It is a lot easier to threaten the Iraqi army than to bomb Serbs or rearm Bosnian Muslims or restore democracy in Haiti. America's Gulf Arab allies are also once more marching in step. The U.S. carrier fleet is approaching. CNN, Sky and the other satellite channels are ready to give us Gulf War III. Yet none of them questions the morality behind the crisis.

If the satellite news machine employed a minimum of critical faculties, it would have asked what lay behind the satellite pictures so emotionally produced by Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. True, about 60,000 Iraqi troops were moving around southern Iraq in the aftermath of President Saddam's threat to take "necessary measures" if U.N. sanctions were not lifted. True, President Saddam still refuses to accept the U.N.-devised Iraq-Kuwaiti frontier which gives part of Iraq's only Gulf port.

But that, surely is not what the new Gulf crisis is about. As the media demonises President Saddam, we turn a blind eye to the character of our Gulf allies. In Saudi Arabia they chop off the heads of criminals — shooting them in the back of the neck if they are female. Meanwhile, Iraq has met almost all the U.N.'s original demands —

that it should dismantle chemical, nuclear and biological weapons of mass destruction.

No, the troop movements in southern Iraq, like Lloyd Bentsen's expressions of concern about the Saudi Arabian economy, are about U.N. sanctions and the price of oil. More specifically, the crisis is a product of the oddness — perhaps immorality would be a better word — of America's policy towards Iraq, which is ostensibly designed to use sanctions to starve the Iraqis into overthrowing President Saddam but actually ensures that only the people of Iraq — not President Saddam and his cronies — suffer for the wickedness of the invasion of Kuwait.

Ever since the war ended — and we were assured that President Saddam's army had been destroyed, his country brought to its knees, the Beast of Baghdad himself had been "defanged" — neither George Bush nor, after him, Bill Clinton have decided whether they want President Saddam alive or dead.

If alive, he may be of future use to the West in countering Iran, just as he was when he obligingly went to war with the Islamic Republic in 1980, emerging victorious with the help of Russian, French, German, British and American weapons and satellite pictures. If dead, however, Iraq may turn into an uncontrollable democracy, which may either split apart into Kurdish, Sunni and pro-Iranian Shiite factions or drip the poison of liberty and human rights into the blood-stream of our friendly, yet distinctly undemocratic, Gulf allies.

Anxious to exploit America's indecision, President

Saddam has ensured that his people pay for the evils of his regime. Western journalists have been freighted to Iraq over the past three years to witness starvation and increasing child mortality in the hope that the television channels would do for the Iraqi Baath Party what they had done for the U.S. administration.

It is the economic opportunities of post-war Iraq, rather than the humanitarian tragedy, that have had a greater effect on the outside world. France, Russia and Turkey would like U.N. sanctions to be lifted. The latter is already quietly breaking U.N. rules, while threatening to close down the allied-supported quasi-autonomous Kurdish zone of northern Iraq.

President Saddam is hoping that by marching his soldiers up and down in southern Iraq he will focus international attention again on the sanctions issue. Inflation has cut deeply into Iraq and hardship has humiliated the country. Central authority has become eroded by Allied "safe havens". President Saddam Hussein, watching his Arab and Iranian enemies reap the benefits of U.S. policy, hopes that his military manoeuvres will prompt the West to reexamine its motives in the region.

Put more simply, President Saddam is asking the West if a continued military crisis in the Gulf is the price it wishes to pay for maintaining sanctions — which have considerable economic benefits for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, but whose purpose has been steadily eroded since the end of the second Gulf war in 1991.

The Independence

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Sanctions must end; Iraq should not repeat mistakes of the past

By Elia Nasrallah

NO ONE can deny that Iraq has complied with all U.N. resolutions, which warrant a lifting of the sanctions, and no one can deny the Iraqis the right to move their forces within the Iraqi territory, said a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily. Ahmad Dabbas said that the Iraqis who backed their Arab kinsmen in all their previous wars with Israel and offered sacrifices are left to die as a result of the sanctions while Arab states demand the perpetuation of the embargo on the Iraqi people. It is because the Iraqis are facing repression from their Arab brothers and the foreign powers that they are making desperate moves in the Gulf, said the writer.

The Iraqis have implemented all U.N. resolutions but are not served justice by their Arab brothers and by the U.S.-led foreign colonialists, said Mohammad Kawash in Al Dastour. The writer said the Iraqis have all the right to hold military exercise in their territory and demand an end of the embargo and it is most shameful for the Arabs to normalise their relations with Israel that is still occupying Arab land and at the same time condemning sanctions on their Iraqi brothers, said the writer.

Saleh Qallab blamed the Iraqi leadership for its miscalculation of the situation and for moving its forces towards the Kuwaiti borders for the present crisis in the Gulf region. Had the Iraqi leadership calculated the situation wisely in 1990 it would not have faced the tragic outcome of the war, and had it been more wise this time, the crisis in the Gulf could not have erupted, said the writer.

He said before the troop movement there was a good chance for the Western powers to ease the sanctions but the miscalculated move has dashed all hopes for a better outlook. Walid Abu Baker, a columnist in Al Dastour, said that as long as the sanctions are in place, the Iraqis are bound to take other desperate moves like they did this time, and as long as there is no peace in the Gulf, the Kuwaitis will not be assured about their future. The writer said it is most beneficial for the Arab states to come to agreement over their future relations than leave their destiny in the hands of the foreign powers, which only care for their own selfish interest. The writers said that foreign forces are rushed to the Gulf as long as they have interest in the oil wealth there.

We were against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in

1990 and we will continue to oppose its movement of troops for an attack on Kuwait, said Hamadeh Faraneh, a columnist in Al Dastour. But the writer said that the Jordanian people cannot help demanding that the sanctions on the Iraqi people be terminated now that their leadership has complied with all U.N. resolutions. He said Jordan cannot ignore its economic interests with Iraq, noting that thousands of workers in Jordan's Aqaba port and the free zones are employed by businesses that has always been linked with Iraq adding that the Kingdom receives all its oil needs from Iraqi oil fields. He said that for humanitarian and economic reasons and to safeguard national interests, Jordan is bound to do all it can to secure an end to the sanctions.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer in Al Ra'i, accused Israel of finding a pretext in the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier in order to indefinitely suspend peace talks with the Palestinians. The closure of the Gaza Strip, hostile statements against the Palestinian leadership and threats against the Arabs can by no means be conducive to genuine peace, said the writer. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin obviously considers the Palestine National Authority a tool for protecting the lives of his troops and settlers, something which totally contradicts the Oslo agreement, said the writer.

Saleh Qallab, a writer in Al Dastour, addressed the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, saying that despite the Washington Declaration, the Israelis seem intent on aborting Jordan's bids to regain its lost territory and water rights. The writer said the negotiations between the two sides dealt with side issues and failed to concentrate on the land and water questions, the main issue that requires solution before peace can be reached. Any talk about the development of the Jordan Valley and joint projects will remain wishful thinking, said the writer, unless the basic questions are resolved.

Mohammad Subeili, a columnist in Al Dastour, said that wedding processions in Amman and elsewhere in Jordan have been obstructing normal life. Citing an instance when many people had been delayed from reaching the airport due to a procession blocking the highway, the writer said that the concerned authorities ought to interfere and put an end to such violation of the traffic rules.

World lives in 'holocaust of poverty', U.N. told

ROME (R) — Chilean President Eduardo Frei said Friday a "holocaust of poverty" afflicted the world and urged international leaders to act by the turn of the century to end hunger and poverty.

In a keynote address to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome, he said more than one billion people — one fifth of the world's population — now had to "eke out a bare existence on less than one dollar a day."

"Now that we no longer live under the threat of nuclear confrontation, a permanent if less obvious holocaust is becoming easier to see — this is the holocaust of poverty, and it claims millions of victims every day," Mr. Frei said.

Mr. Frei was the main speaker at the FAO's annual World Food Day ceremony in Rome, whose theme this

year is "water for life". Installed as president last December, he has pledged to wipe out poverty in Chile by the time his term expires in 2000.

"As we stand a few years from the third millennium, it is up to us to decide what legacy we shall leave to future generations to that human river that demands action on our part — strong, decisive and concrete action to reverse the current trends and to make us, once again, worthy of the universe we inhabit," Mr. Frei said.

More than 140 countries observe World Food Day, held to mark the anniversary of the founding of FAO.

Jacques Diouf, director general of the Rome-based agency, told the ceremony that more than 800 million of the world's 5.6 billion people were hungry.

He said food production

would have to rise by 25 per cent by 2010 just to maintain present consumption levels as the world's population swells to a forecast seven billion and by 55 per cent to eradicate hunger and malnutrition altogether.

"Ensuring that the present and future generations will have adequate food of the environment is one of the most challenging tasks that has ever faced mankind," he said.

FAO has made safeguarding the world's water resources the theme of its 1994 world food day.

"Water maintains life on this planet. Without it there is no plant, no animal, no human being. It can mean prosperity or poverty, health or illness, life or death," Mr. Diouf said.

World water use had more than doubled over the past two decades with 70 per cent

being used in agriculture. But more than half the world's population did not have enough water, he added.

Mr. Diouf stressed that water shortages were often due to mismanagement rather than lack of supplies.

"Nowhere is it written that most of the large rivers of the African continent must forever flow unused into the ocean while the people of Africa are thirsty and their crops are withering," Mr. Diouf, who is from Senegal, said.

But he said that it was often difficult to find funds to finance irrigation and land management projects.

"We are often told that development of irrigation is costly. But it is unfair to make such a statement in a vacuum. Irrigation investment should first be analysed taking into consideration the cost of drought," he said.

General strike in Italy turns into protest anti-Berlusconi

ROME (R) — A four-hour general strike turned into a massive protest against Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi Friday when up to one million Italians took to the streets to march against his cost-cutting budget for 1995.

The demonstrations in Rome, Milan, Turin, Florence and more than 30 other cities were among the largest in Italy since widespread industrial unrest hit the country in the 1970s.

Rail and air transport were seriously disrupted by the stoppage, which shut government offices, banks, schools, border posts and most hospital services and hit work in factories.

Workers from billionaire Berlusconi's Fininvest media empire joined the Milan protest and were cheered by the crowds.

In Rome, the streets of the capital filled with chants of

"Berlusconi out," as protesters — unions estimated some 150,000 — marched to the sound of drums, whistles and horns.

Protesters in Rome carried a mock coffin representing the pensioners whom trade unions say will be badly hit by cutbacks contained in Mr. Berlusconi's budget.

"Italians have expressed a gigantic vote of no confidence in the budget and we shall continue to fight it," Pietro Larizza, leader of the UIL union, told marchers in Milan.

The prime minister, elected in March, was in Moscow on Friday and missed the strike.

Mr. Berlusconi's free-market government, which includes neo-fascists and federalists, has staked its credibility with battered financial markets on a budget that aims to slash 50 trillion lire

(\$33 billion) from next year's deficit.

More than half the savings are due to come from cuts, including on pensions, health and defence spending.

Protesters carried banners reminding Mr. Berlusconi that his \$7 billion a year business empire was under scrutiny of graft investigators and of his friendship with the prime casualty of Italy's graft scandals — former prime minister Bettino Craxi.

Other placards said "forza giudici" (go judges) — a play on Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia Party.

"They are hitting the weakest hard without making any attempt to raise money from the rich," said Giovanni Marchionna, a worker in the prime minister's office who took part in the Rome march.

"They must change that," Mr. Berlusconi earlier this week dismissed the strike as posturing by Italy's three

main trade unions. He has pledged to use confidence votes if necessary to get his budget through parliament, which must approve it by the end of the year.

A senior Forza Italia politician accused the unions of trying to manipulate the country's 20 million workers.

"The action is based on disinformation," said Vittorio Dotti, Forza Italia leader in the chamber of deputies.

"They have omitted to explain the reasons for the budget, reasons that are designed to ensure that Italians have their pensions," he told a private radio station.

The government, which is looking to save 7.6 trillion lire (\$5.1 billion) next year through a freeze in early retirement pensions and a cut in benefits, says it has been forced to make the savings because the money has run out.

Merrill Lynch revises down expected path for dollar in coming quarters

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, Oct. 6, 1994 until Wednesday, Oct. 12, 1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar has continued to trade in a relatively narrow range in recent weeks, while edging up to near 100 JPY/USD and DM/USD 1.55. The dollar has received some support from some easing in U.S.-Japan trade tensions and uncertainty about the outcome of Germany's Oct. 16 election.

But we are revising down our expected path for the dollar in coming quarters based partly on evidence that capital outflows from the U.S. are picking up again and partly on evidence that Japan's long-term capital outflows in recent months have been at unsustainably high levels and are liable to fall again, with negative consequences for the dollar.

In addition, our German economics no longer expects any further monetary easing in Germany, removing that as a possible prop for the dollar.

We now expect that the dollar will trade to levels as low as DM/USD 1.45 and JPY/USD 92 in coming quarters.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar was essentially neutral last week as it rallied against three of the six major currencies we most regularly monitor and fell against three. In the end, the dollar index did manage to post a modest (0.02%) gain for the week; this was enough to extend the winning streak to three weeks.

Important resistance exists at 89-91: that band represents both the top end of the trading range and the downtrend line from the February high. Benchmark support exists at 86.65-87.3. Even if that range is penetrated to the downside, such weakness would not likely be technically confirmed. However, unless and until the post February downtrend is broken caution remains warranted.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar rose briefly above JPY/USD 100 this week, reflecting an improved climate for U.S.-Japan trade relations and possibly some safe-haven demand for dollars following reports that Saddam Hussein was amassing troops on Kuwait's border.

Recent capital flow data from Japan show a huge jump in net long-term capital outflows of \$140 billion at an annual rate in the three months to August. That looks unsustainably high, and in our view the dollar is likely to come under pressure if those outflows have a tendency to return to anything like the underlying trend of \$66 billion over the last twelve months.

Our Tokyo economic unit expects no further interest rate cuts in Japan and believes the Bank of Japan intends to let money market rates edge up slowly in coming quarters.

Growing external deficits in the English-speaking nations appear increasingly unsustainable, pointing to the need for further dollar weakness and higher U.S. interest rates to curb the deficits.

We now look for the dollar to fall to JPY/USD 92 over the next 12 months, despite prospects for a further hike in U.S. short-term interest rates of at least 100 basis points by the middle of next year.

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell 1.7 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Oct. 7, and for the second week in a row was the weakest of the six currencies we most regularly discuss. Sentiment remains essentially neutral, but has been improving of late. Perhaps most importantly, last week's weakness was sufficient to penetrate the uptrend line from the January low. This, plus the fact that momentum continues to deteriorate, suggests that still lower yen lows are likely in coming weeks. In that regard, a move through 102 Y/USD would allow for 105-106. Benchmark resistance exists at 97.20, then below 93.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: For the past couple of weeks, the Deutschmark has been in a tight trading range with the U.S. dollar, hovering close to DM/USD 1.55. Market participants await new information on U.S. inflation and production and the Oct. 16 German general election result. Recent opinion polls in Germany show the CDU/CSU-FDP Bonn coalition marginally ahead of the combined SPD/Green/PDS opposition. Barring an election catastrophe, the German market should benefit post-election as attention is again focused on positive economic fundamentals of moderate growth and declining inflation. Healthy growth in Germany has reduced the odds for another official interest rate cut considerably, which removes one possible prop for the dollar.

Our German economic unit now expects stability in German official interest rates for the next seven quarters even as inflation continues to decelerate. The west German economy grew 2.3 per cent year-over-year in the second quarter following a 1.6 per cent increase in the first. Data available since then point to a continued recovery, but there is no indication that the west German economy is heading towards above potential, inflationary growth.

We have raised our three-month forecast for the mark-dollar exchange rate to DM/USD 1.50 from 1.53, raised our six-month forecast to DM/USD 1.45 from 1.50, but we have left our twelve-month forecast unchanged at DM/USD 1.50.

Technical view: The Deutschmark rallied 0.2 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment is neutral to near overbought. Momentum is deteriorating, and seems to have the potential to remain under pressure for the rest of the year. This suggests that the underlying uptrend that has

been in force since February is close to a top. With that in mind, it would likely take a decline back through 1.59-1.61 DM/USD to reverse that trend and confirm the action of momentum (although there is intervening resistance near 1.57). Strong resistance remains at 1.48-1.52.

Against the yen, the D-mark remains rallied 1.9 per cent last week, and is beginning to at least challenge the top end of the multi-month trading range (above 66.50). Even so, medium term oscillators remain weak, and once the current short term strength runs its course, renewed weakness is likely. The trading range generates support at 59-60.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound was little changed in the latest week, continuing to trade near USD/GBP 1.58 and DM/GBP 2.45. Over the next few months, we expect the pound to continue to appreciate against the Deutschmark and the U.S. dollar as both the nominal and real interest rate differentials move in favour of the pound.

In line with our forecast for further appreciation of the Deutschmark against the dollar, we have also raised our outlook for the pound against the dollar. We increased our three-month forecast for the pound-dollar exchange rate to USD/GBP 1.60 instead of 1.55, our six-month forecast to USD/GBP 1.66 from 1.60, but we have left our twelve-month forecast unchanged at USD/GBP 2.45 in twelve months time. Recent economic data show that inflation in the U.K. is still well behaved. But our outlook is for some deterioration of inflation ahead, prompting higher rates. There is little slack left in the economy and given the current momentum, that slack should be used by the end of 1995.

Still, we do not expect inflation to get out of control, though it might briefly rise above the 4 per cent limit in 1996. We expect to see another two, possibly three, 50 basis point rate increases over the next twelve months which should keep inflation contained.

Technical view: The British pound gained 0.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Oct. 7, making it the strongest currency among the six we most regularly discuss. The currency was able to break out of its long standing trading range, and now stands at levels not seen since late 1992.

Against this background, medium term sentiment is neutral and momentum remains under pressure. This suggests that any further strength may not be sustainable. In the regard, a break back below 1.57 U.S.\$/L would indicate that the rally trend is complete and allow for further weakness toward \$1.55. The trading range support remains at \$1.46. As for resistance, a rally decisively through \$1.60 would allow for 1.62.

Against the DM, sterling gained 0.4 per cent last week, but remains in its multi-month downtrend. Momentum is bottoming and seems to be gathering steam. Resistance is at 2.467-2.475, with support at 2.443-2.432.

Rouble crisis claims scalp of reformers' foe

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's rouble crisis claimed the prized scalp Friday of conservative central bank chairman Viktor Gerashchenko, long the bane of market reformers.

A presidential spokesman said Mr. Gerashchenko, 57, handed in his resignation.

Mr. Gerashchenko joins former finance minister Sergei Dubinin, sacked by Mr. Yeltsin Wednesday, the day after the rouble had plummeted to 3,926 to the dollar.

The rouble — policed

carefully by central intervention — has bounced back since and ended Friday's session on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEK) at 2,988.

Dealers, shell-shocked by the rouble roller-coaster and the Kremlin's virulent reaction, forecast the Russian currency would stabilise a little lower.

"The rouble will not rise as the realistic resistance level is around 3,100," said one dealer. "It will not fall either as the government is still irritated."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 15, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you have been procrastinating on career work you need to catch up without delay. Think only along constructive lines and don't allow yourself to get side tracked from main goals. Full speed ahead.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You may have to take an unexpected little trip during the day, so be ready. In the evening get together with close personal friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Concentrating on practical affairs and improving them is wise today, even if you have to make some changes in the given routine.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a fine day for making some radical changes with an associate and gain greater success in the future. Don't lose your temper.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You find the right way to get some obligation nicely settled without causing any problems. Be more romantic with your mate tonight.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There can suddenly be changes where friends are concerned, but take this in your stride. Avoid over-spending so there is some money for later.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be tactful with any who have the power over your affairs and avoid trouble and loss thereby. Enjoy outside hobbies you enjoy tonight.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study new ideas carefully, since one in particular could bring about worthwhile changes in your life and profit in your pocket.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to make new arrangements with a person in business and get good results for your efforts. Use good logic on an idea.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are anxious to start something new of a constructive nature, so get right to it and complete it very soon. Don't neglect a planned day of shopping with your mate.

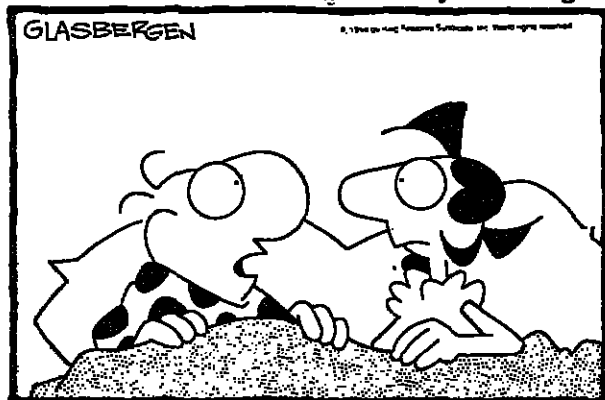
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study new angles which can make you more efficient at your regular tasks and impress higher-ups with the method of operation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into recreations which you like and put more pep and zip into them. Have a more loving attitude toward your mate and loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Do nothing at home which could cause friction or there could be real trouble. Keep busy getting your home in shape for those who may visit.

Birthingstone of October: Opal Tourmaline

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"I'm really tired tonight. Do you mind if I kiss good night with only one lip?"

Peanuts



Andy Capp

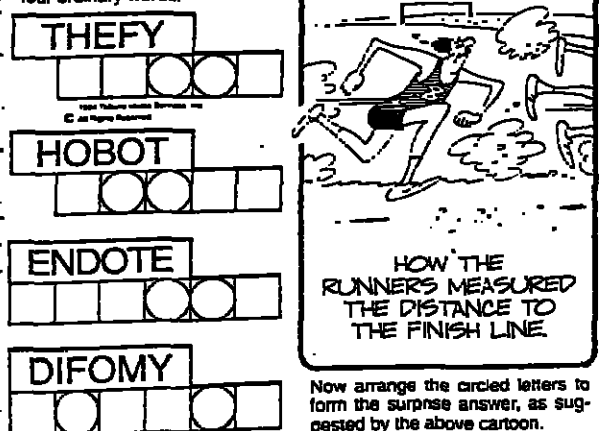


Mutt'n'Jeff



JUMBLE

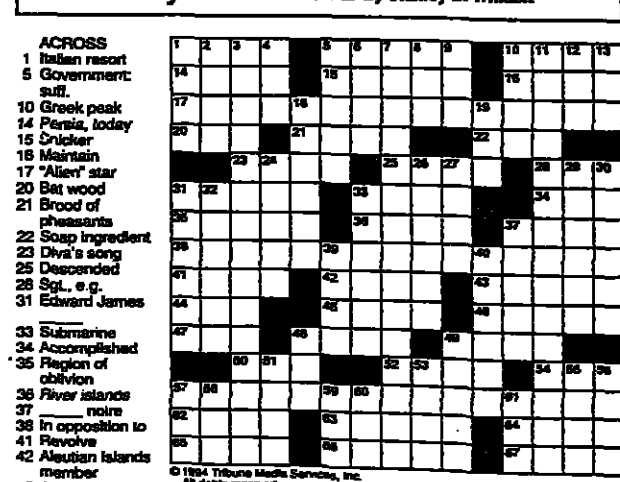
Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____ BY _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHINY GLOVE CABANA FRACAS
Answer: No matter what he did the boxer ended up here — ON THE CANVAS

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitton



By Volker Perthes

WHILE CONVENTIONAL wisdom tells us that turning a war-economy into a peacetime economy is a task, Syria provides an example of a country where the transition from a regional state of war to a regional state of peace could, in the short and middle run at least, create problems which may be considered to outweigh gains. From a long time, Syria has been able to harvest what could be called a war dividend, a substantial rent, that is, from its strategic location and from its role in the Arab-Israeli conflict. As is the case with other rents, war dividends are all but unproblematic from a development perspective. They can, however, enable a country to survive economically and, respectively, support the political control and survival of its regime.

With regional peace in the air, Syria's war dividend is bound to decrease. Syria is politically prepared for peace, provided, as goes without saying, that its legitimate demands on the basis of which it entered the Madrid peace talks in 1991 are met — the return of the Golan, that is, and an acceptable solution to the Palestinian issue. Economically, however, and perhaps culturally too, peace is a risky affair, a challenge to which the country is not yet prepared. Short-term profits are not expected. In the long run, a comprehensive peace in the region will certainly serve all the regional countries' interests. The expected peace dividend, however, will be unequally distributed, and for Syria, a peace dividend depends on more than a treaty with Israel.

Syria's war dividend

Syria is one of a few countries

"Syria is politically prepared for peace, provided, as goes without saying, that its legitimate demands on the basis of which it entered the Madrid peace talks in 1991 are met"

that has been able to combine high level of civilian public expenditure. The severe economic crisis which the country had to cope with during the 1980s resulted primarily from misguided economic and development policies — basically a statist import-substituting industrialisation that neglected agriculture — not from high expenditures on defence. Since the mid-1980s, the government has embarked on a cautious, home-made economic reform programme, which led to the reduction of state control over production, foreign trade, and consumption, increased the space of the private sector, and gave more importance to market principles. Since the regime has eagerly sought, however, to remain in control of the reform process and to prevent any loss of political power, reforms remained limited and selective, subject to a rationality of political control rather than to economic rationality. The regime's ability to do so, i.e. to sustain control and limit reform, is to some extent the result of its disposition of a considerable inflow of external rents.

Rather than being burdened by defence expenditures, Syria has been able to earn a war dividend from its strategic, regional location since 1973 at the latest. Given that the country has been one of the important confrontation states with Israel, and that it has developed a potential for limited interference in other parts of the Arab system, the Syrian leadership has been able to enforce on the more wealthy Arab countries a certain financial solidarity which became an important factor of its

"For a long time, Syria has been able to harvest what could be called a war dividend: a substantial rent, that is, from its strategic location and from its role in the Arab-Israeli conflict."

political-economic development.

As regards military expenditure, Syria managed to pay only a fraction of its armaments bill. Most of Syria's arms imports have been paid for by its Arab allies — mainly the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Libya — or financed by the main supplier, the Soviet Union, on a concessional loan basis. Syrian arms purchases totalled some \$21 billion in the 1980s alone; and this buildup has led to an estimated \$11 billion on-so military debt to the former Soviet Union. Syria, however, has always regarded Soviet arms shipments as political — rather than commercial — ventures that were linked to Soviet security guarantees, and the Syrian government has so far shown little to commit itself to a full repayment. The Russian government will be fairly lucky if it succeeds in receiving back from Syria more than 10 or 15 per cent of what Damascus officially owes them for Soviet arms; and Syria may, according to reports in the spring of 1994, even secure Gulf Arab funding for such a limited repayment.

With arms deliveries largely paid for or financed from abroad, only Syria's current military expenditures, as reflected in the official defence

From war dividend to peace dividend

Syrian options in a new regional environment

domestic sources. Though high, this expenditure can be considered a necessary investment to make maximum use of the country's location — an investment in military credibility, so to speak — and to create a strategic rent or war dividend: financial transfers for civilian expenditure, that is, which Syria's regional partners put at the disposal of the Syrian regime elite because of and only because of Syria's strategic position and military credibility.

It is noteworthy that some 85-90 per cent of all civilian financial aid that Syria has earned since the early 1970s has come from regional sources. Between 1973 and 1978, official Arab aid averaged close to \$600 million per year. The Baghdad Arab summit of 1978, which was called upon to confront the Egyptian-Israeli Camp-David accord, pledged to Syria a \$1.8 billion annual grant for a 10-year period. A substantial part of this promise materialised, in the first year after the summit at least. Net Arab assistance jumped to an annual average of almost \$1.6 billion in the 1979-1981 period, declining thereafter to an average of \$670 million in the years 1982 and 1983, and to around zero in 1988 and 1989. The decrease after 1981 was primarily due to political factors, namely Syria's support for Iran during the Iraq-Iran war. Diminishing flows from Arab sources were to a large extent replaced by Iranian grants in form of free and concessional

basis of this comparison, Syria's war dividend — that civilian, regional assistance which Syria would not have received without its strategic position and role in the Arab-Israeli conflict — can be estimated at about \$12-13 billion.

The challenges of peace

Syria's war dividend, as shown, has been dependent on changing regional constellations. When Egypt left the Arab front in 1979, Arab support for Syria reached unprecedented heights. Syria's pro-Iranian stance during the Iraq-Iran war reduced Arab aid flows; its pro-Saudi stance during the second Gulf War, its establishment, together with Egypt, of a loose alliance with the GCC states (the "Damascus Declaration" of March 1991), and its participation in the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace talks all helped to reopen the Gulf Arab aid spring. The regime has made considerable endeavours in the past couple of years to diversify external rent inflows — mainly by increasing the country's oil production and exports, and by trying to stabilise its relationship to the GCC countries. To the extent that these attempts were successful, they have also reached limits. It is hardly imaginable, for instance, that Syria would be able to increase its share in Gulf Arab aid to other Arab countries beyond the 20 or 25 per cent of the pie which it has been receiving in recent years.

From a Syrian regime perspective, the most favourable regional constellation has no doubt been the Syrian-Israeli no-war-no-peace situation which has prevailed since 1973. This constellation furthered the regime's national credentials and legitimacy both domestically and in the wider Arab environment; it enhanced Syria's international weight; it secured, as outlined, the inflow of a substantial strategic rent; and it did not endanger the country's infrastructure and other economic achievements, nor put Syria's armed forces themselves at risk. Any full-scale war with Israel, in contrast, would almost certainly have led to a Syrian defeat and could not, therefore, be risked. The short war over Lebanon in 1982 made this crystal clear. When Syria agreed to join the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process in 1991, its leadership knew very well that one of the alternatives to a peaceful solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict — another war with Israel — would be disastrous. The other alternative to negotiations with Israel and an eventual peaceful settlement, namely the indefinite continuation of the no-war-no-peace situation, was about to disappear inasmuch as the interest of their own to end the state of tension in the Middle East which had served them fairly well during the cold war.

Damascus has been prepared to enter negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict since 1974. Today, it is politically prepared to conclude a peace treaty if its basic condition is met, namely the full, if certainly phased, withdrawal of Israel from the Golan. Syria's interest in the ongoing negotiations, however, is not so much a peace treaty, or a quick resolution of the conflict with Israel, as rather the avoidance of war. Peace — or "full peace" to use the now much-used expression — is of secondary importance. Syria, unlike the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), or Israel's Labour government, is not in a hurry in this respect. On the contrary, Syria needs time to prepare for such a full peace and for the economic, technological, intellectual and political challenges such a peace will entail.

Notably, though participating in the Madrid/Washington peace negotiations since their beginning in 1991, the sudden progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track that the talks saw in mid-1993, caught Syrian policy makers by surprise. By May 1994, when Israel and the PLO signed the Cairo accord on Palestinian autonomy, the Syrian scene was still strikingly void of any organised attempt at evaluating precisely the changing economic environment a regional peace would sooner or later involve. Neither the government, nor the ruling Baath Party, universities or even the chambers of commerce and of industry had undertaken or commissioned any study on the economic repercussions a regional peace would have for Syria, let alone any plan for Syrian economic responses to such new regional questions.

Neither did state-employed Syrian academics participate in international workshops or study groups that attempted to develop scenarios for the region's economic future. Domestically, the official discourse remained restricted to warnings against a normalisation with Israel and accusations against those Arab brothers who actively sought to prepare for a new Middle East that would include Israel. Neither the media, nor universities or other public fora discussed the problems and challenges Syria would have to face after a peace treaty. The issue was not yet up for discussion.

This apparent inertia was only partly politically motivated: Syria did not take part in the

multilateral peace negotiations, and was wary of efforts — such as international study groups — that practically followed the multilateral approach. Syrian officials, therefore, occasionally tried to justify the absence of a Syrian debate on a new Middle East with the need not to pre-empt matters. Other factors, however, were of greater importance for the lack of debate and planning in Syria. For one, there was the ancient and more recent fear of a large Arab public in Syria which did not in practice allow anyone but the president to take as important a decision as to prepare — on any level or in any field — for peace with Israel, or to open the space for a public debate of the issue. And there were other, often hidden or even unconscious, fears and anxieties on the part of Syria's policy-makers, officials, academics, and even the private sector about the challenges of a new and pacified Middle East. Syrian fears, in this respect, represent to a large extent the anxieties of a large Arab public in Syria, and the anxieties of an Israeli-dominated Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian economic union, of Israeli cultural and economic hegemony in the region, of Arab economic dependence on Israel, and of further disunion and fragmentation in the Arab World.

In Syria these fears are even more understandable than in other Arab countries. Syria's immediate gain from a peace treaty with Israel, the return of the Golan Heights, will be more a symbolic gain than an economic good. Several thousand Syrian refugee families from the Golan Heights, now crowding in Damascus, will probably resettle on the heights and once again become agricultural producers, others, particularly from the second and third generation of the expellees, are likely to sell or lease their land to agricultural entrepreneurs. The Golan may thus, once regained, contribute to Syria's fruit and vegetable exports; but it is of little economic value if compared to what Egypt had gained in 1975 and 1976 when it exchanged the Sinai for the Suez Canal and eventually made peace with Israel — namely the reopening of its occupied oilfields. At the same time, a return of the Golan, an end of the no-war-no-peace situation between Syria and Israel, and a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, will deprive Syria of its strategic position. Peace, thus, is likely to reduce Syria's political weight; the strategic rent which the country has been drawing from the regional system will most probably decrease or, at best, stagnate; and the country's political system itself could thereby be threatened.

Moreover, it does not look as if Syria, in a short-term future at least, would be able to realise a fair share of the peace dividend generally expected for the region, and which no doubt will be unequally distributed. The fact that even international agencies expect Israel to reap more economic benefit from regional peace than its Arab neighbours can only increase Syrian and Arab anxieties and suspicions.

What peace dividend for Syria?

It is mainly through three channels that international observers and agencies expect a peace dividend to accrue to the region: by means of intra-regional trade and cooperation in a new Middle East that would integrate Israel and reduce trade barriers; by means of investments from regional and international sources which such a pacified and more integrated Middle East would attract; and through reduced military expenditure and the release of resources for development efforts.

Regional cooperation

Of central importance for the scenarios of a new Middle East is what commonly is referred to as the Middle Eastern market, i.e., the opening of the region such as to allow, in principle at least, the exchange of goods and services between all regional states, irrespective of whether or not this opening will eventually lead to regional or subregional free trade agreements. As things stand today, Syria may well find itself at the losing end of such a pacified and more integrated Middle East. The short-term threat, for Syria, of the integration of Israel's more advanced and more cost-effective economy into the regional economic structure, is not so much direct competition on the domestic market as rather regional competition and likely changes of the economic geography of the region.

Syria does not actually have to fear that its own market would be flooded by Israeli goods. Israel's industry certainly offers a range of comparatively advanced industrial products which neither Syria nor other Arab states produce. Syrian consumers, however, will likely, in the foreseeable future, prefer to buy such goods from Europe or Japan; and only in a few niches, such as irrigation equipment, may Israeli producers actually find the Syrian market promising. Nothing will prevent Syria from continued protection of its own industries and agriculture against competition; and it can still conclude preferential

trade arrangements with Arab countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinian entity that give their agricultural and industrial products favoured access to the Syrian market where domestic supply is insufficient. There are also, no doubt, opportunities for the Syrian economy once regional trade relations are normalised. Among the first industries to profit from peace and new links in the Middle East will be the tourism industries of all Mediterranean Mashreq countries and Jordan, among them Syria's lively tourism business. As regards goods exchange, Israel itself may in the near future be of similarly limited interest for Syrian producers, particularly for cheap manufactured mass consumer goods. At the same time, however, Syrian exporters are likely to lose market shares in the Arab Gulf states. Here, Israeli competition is likely to directly threaten Syria's largely successful attempts over the last couple of years to find a lucrative market for, particularly, its fruits and vegetables.

More importantly, Syria could lose as a result of regionwide infrastructural developments whereby Israel, the Palestinian entity, and Jordan would become the centrepiece of a newly designed Mashreq. Recent plans and studies of the World Bank or others have projected the main communication lines of the region to start from or lead to Israel — with Haifa becoming the main regional port; the main east-west connections all starting from Israel rather than Lebanon; and a reopened TAP-line probably ending in Haifa rather than Sidon. Such developments would pose a threat to Syria as a transit country and to Syria — as well as Lebanese — ports.

In the longer term, Syrian traders and industrialists are likely to adapt to a new regional setting and to find niches for their services and products. Syrians have often, and rightly so, stated, that Syria's economic future is in a regionally integrated economy. From a Syrian perspective, however, peace with Israel is not the only important variable for the prospects of such a regional economy. Of similar importance, at least, is whether a stable framework for Syrian cooperation with the GCC countries is established, and whether and how Iraq will be reintegrated into the region. Syria could challenge some of the rather unfavourable results for its economic position of Israel's integration into the region by reestablishing economic links with Iraq and help end Iraq's isolation.

From the late 1970s, when Syrian-Iraq relations improved for a time, till 1982, when trade relations between the two countries were practically severed, Iraq was Syria's largest Arab trade partner, absorbing up to 30 per cent of Syria's exports to the region. From a purely economic Syrian perspective, all plans and scenarios for regional infrastructural development and integration should have to take the Iraqi dimension into account. To the extent that the new Middle East, or Middle East market, is basically an Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian affair, Syria will literally find itself at its fringes, while with Iraq included, Syria's position would be much more pivotal. A railway connection, for instance, linking Damascus with Baghdad, Basra and the Gulf, with an extension from Beirut to Damascus, could gain similar importance for Syria as the projected coastal highway along the Mediterranean. For the time being, however, political considerations, namely the political divide between Damascus and Baghdad, are likely to weigh heavier than economic rationalities.

Investments

It is generally expected that regional stability and peace in the Middle East will encourage the inflow of foreign capital and help to reattract private capital that fled the region during the past decades. Capital flight from Syria has indeed been particularly high; savings abroad of Syrian residents were estimated at some \$26 billion — almost twice as much, that is, as the net inflow over the last two decades of regional civilian assistance to Syria. There is no doubt therefore that a partial reversal of capital flight from Syria could support economic growth and thereby alleviate one of the largest problems Syria is to face in the years to come — namely to provide jobs for an extremely

young and rapidly growing population.

In the course of the cautious economic liberalisation programme pursued since the mid-1980s, the Syrian government has indeed spent some efforts to attract local, expatriate, and foreign investments. Flight capital may thereby reenter Syria under an "expatriate" label. Under the provisions of an investment law issued in 1991 (Law No. 10), Syrian and foreign investors alike are offered far-reaching incentives and guarantees such as the exemption from customs duties and foreign-exchange regulations, and up-to-seven-year tax holidays. And there doubtless exist investment opportunities in Syria. Food production and textiles, Syria's industries, could be developed with foreign capital and become successful export industries. The same applies to some of the local metal-working industries. Even larger investment projects such as factories for the processing of cars, pick-ups or light trucks could make sense in a country like Syria, particularly if the regional market were to become easily accessible. Local metal-working and plastic-producing establishments could, with an injection of capital, easily extend their product range such as to supply parts for such industries. Generally, Syria's overwhelmingly small-scale private industrial sector is capital-poor and could benefit a lot if foreign and expatriate investments in the banking sector were allowed, and foreign capital thereby made available for the development of private industries.

Some caveats, however, are in place as regards Syria's prospects to attract foreign and even to reattract expatriate capital. Given that Eastern Europe with its, in many respects, high comparative advantages is a strong competitor for investments, there is no abundance of international capital seeking investment opportunities in the Middle East in the first place. And Syria in particular, except for the oil sector — the only sector of the national economy where multinational companies are already operating — is not currently too attractive a place for investors. In a regional economy of peace, the country will have to compete for investment with Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian entity. In any of these countries the banking system is more developed than it is in Syria. Syria has still not permitted private banks to exist; the services of the public-sector banks are notoriously poor; and the discussion about a reform of the banking sector and the establishment of mixed private-sector/state-sector banks has been stalled, as has the debate about the establishment of a stock-exchange. In Israel and Jordan, at least, the physical infrastructure (electricity, telecommunications) is in a much better state than it is in Syria; and Lebanon, at least, pursuing an ambitious infrastructural reconstruction programme in order to regain its position as a trade-and-services centre of the Middle East. Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Palestine all offer better vocational training and university education than Syria, and thus more qualified technical and administrative local personnel for practically any sector. Also, none of these countries has as inflexible a bureaucracy as have the Syrians.

In addition to that, political conditions in Syria are not really supportive of the government's endeavours to attract expatriate and foreign investments. While authoritarianism and dictatorship per se need not disturb potential investors, the lack of rule-of-law and of an independent judiciary, as well as the doubts about Syria's internal stability do. Till now, the regime is in practice not accountable to anybody; a local entrepreneur or an investor from abroad would hardly be able to sue the Syrian government for an arbitrary government authority in case of dispute, or to take legal measures against an encroachment on his property or, in the worst case, personal freedom by any of the security agencies. That is why a majority of Syria's entrepreneurs, including that top-group of businessmen whose closeness to the regime has helped them to attain quasi-monopolies over certain sectors of the Syrian economy, keep most of their liquid or even fixed assets outside the country; and that expatriates or residents who redirect some of their foreign assets to Syria tend to seek speculative and quick-return ventures rather than long-term investments that tie down their capital.

This tendency is further supported by the feeling of uncertainty and uneasiness regarding the political future of Syria. While there are many reasons to expect that the transition from Assad to a successor regime could come about rather smoothly, no one can be sure that this will actually be so. The state that Mr. Assad has built since his takeover in 1970 is strong — social control being tight, that is, and the autonomy of society extremely limited — but its institutions are weak and may only begin to play their role once the hegemonic leader is gone. At present, therefore, confidence in the state and its institutions is low as is the confidence of

entrepreneurs and potential investors as well as other societal groups, in the ability of those institutions to manage a major crisis of the regime such as the passing of the president.

Military expenditure

While optimistic scenarios of the future Middle East envisage substantial cuts in military budgets once peace is concluded, and a redirection of public expenditures from defence to development, one should not, realistically, expect too much in this respect.

This is particularly so as regards Israel and Syria. It is noteworthy that even Israeli economists and not only representatives of the military — do not expect, let alone demand, a reduction of military expenditures for the foreseeable future, pointing instead to residual risks and threats. Regional peace will most probably not translate into an immediate regional drive towards disarmament. All parties will remain on their guard and — with, most probably, the notable exception of Jordan and the Palestinian entity — maintain a rather high level of armament. Syria in particular, aside from most probably remaining suspicious of its Israeli neighbour even after a peace treaty, will remain on its guard in respect to others among its neighbours too, namely Turkey and Iraq; and it may actually be encouraged by

"Nothing will prevent Syria from continued protection of its own industries and agriculture against competition; and it can still conclude preferential trade arrangements with Arab countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinian entity that give their agricultural and industrial products favoured access to the Syrian market where domestic supply is insufficient."

its friends in the Arab Gulf states to maintain a military potential that could serve, if necessary, to deter and contain Iraq.

Second, even if peace on the main regional frontline, the Arab-Israeli one, will gradually reduce tension and suspicion, this does not automatically lead to a reduction of defence and external security costs. If, for instance, the Golan is returned to Syria and widely demilitarised, we may expect rather expensive early warning systems to be installed in place of tanks and gun batteries on both sides of the border. Also, if in the longer run the Middle East should become a zone free of weapons of mass destruction — with Israel eventually joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and Syria as well as other Arab states signing the Chemical Weapons Convention — Syria may feel compelled to exchange its comparatively cheap arsenal of chemical weapons for more expensive conventional arms.

Third, it has to be noted, that Syria's military budget has already been reduced during the last couple of years, mainly in response to economic constraints. Official figures may exaggerate budget cuts, but they reflect a real tendency. Also, the number of active military man-

"However, Syrian exporters are likely to lose market shares in the Arab Gulf states (where) Israeli competition is likely to directly threaten Syria's largely successful attempts over the last couple of years to find a lucrative market for, particularly, its fruits and vegetables."

power has remained stagnant over the last decade — with thousands of conscripts whom the armed forces could not absorb being channelled through the police. Syria's military leadership may therefore find that the armed forces have already sacrificed more than they should. One could still imagine both military service and the total number of troops in Syria to be reduced after a peace treaty in order to further streamline the current military budget.

The government would have to consider, however, that the number of Syria's jobless youth will increase by the same number that the number of conscripts decreases. As regards military hardware, we have to take into consideration that Syria's armed forces, by all international standards and comparisons, are in urgent need of modernisation. Not only does most of the material that Syria's ground forces use represent the technology of the 1960s, 1970s, and, at best, early 1980s. A considerable part of Syria's tanks, guns, and jets have also been cannibalised, and most of Syria's air force is practically grounded for lack of spare parts. Syria's armaments are characterised

facto by far less impressive than figures in internationally available statistics suggest. Peace, from a Syrian military perspective, will therefore in no way allow to cut down the purchase of military hardware if a modicum of credibility and preparedness for defence is to be maintained.

We should for these reasons expect Syrian arms expenditures to remain relatively high, certainly not dropping below the 25 per cent mark in the budget. In the foreseeable future, the GCC countries may still be prepared to finance some modernisation of the Syrian armed forces. In the longer run, however, Arab funding for Syrian defence spending could decrease, and Syria would then have to cover the costs of arms imports, or a considerable part of it, from domestic resources. How much such a development would entail an increased defence burden or rather lead to a substantial cutback of the military and its material, or cuts into the privileges of the military elite, is very much a question that depends on domestic political equations, particularly on the military's position in the political system.

Political peace dividend?

Given that Syria will not, as it seems, in the short run be able to gain any substantial economic gain from peace with Israel; given, moreover, that the strategic rent or war dividend which the country has so far been able to draw from its position in the Arab-Israeli conflict is likely to stagnate or decrease, and that even some alternative regional rent flows that might be gained and preserved will not suffice to compensate for economic mismanagement and lack of reform; and given, finally, that Syria is going to lose much of its interna-

tional weight once the regional conflict is settled, Syria is not in a hurry to sign a peace treaty and open its borders. With regional peace in the air and Syria unprepared for its challenges, the country is about to be pushed from its front-state status to a much less comfortable backyard position.

At the same time, peace is likely to alter Syria's domestic variables. As the external confrontation is going to lose importance, it will be increasingly difficult to justify the maintenance of Syria's authoritarian rule, the privileges of the military, and the militarisation of public life. Notably, many Syrians expect a political more than economic dividend, hoping that peace will bring about a reduction of the political power of the security apparatus, a restoration of respect for the law, and an increase of government accountability and public discourse. Such hopes may, for the immediate future at least, exceed reality. One should not expect Syria's military to give up its strong position once the state of war between Israel and Syria is terminated. Most likely, Syria's army and security apparatus will remain a strong corporate actor that will ward off attempts to reduce, beyond certain limits, its

privileges, and will maintain a veto power, for some time at least, over Syria's political future. The popular mood, nevertheless, the expectations of declining military and security influence, reflect an actual delimitation of the Middle Eastern security state which Syria so much represents, and whose era may well come to an end in the foreseeable future. Only then, it seems, only when the current authoritarian system gives way to a more democratic and civil regime — whose government, nevertheless, may still have to take the corporate interests of the military into consideration — will Syria be able to pursue the necessary reforms, to make use of its human capital and innovative energies, and thus start to constructively deal with the challenges of peace.

The writer, who is currently on a study and lecture tour in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, is a researcher at the German Research Institute for International Relations. He has written extensively on Syria, and his new book "Political Economy of Syria Under Assad" is to appear in English next year.

ASIAN GAMES

China piles up gold on track;
South Korea moves up to 2nd

HIROSHIMA (AP) — Chinese won with speed on foot and on wheels, with judo and fisticuffs, and with pistols and pingpong paddles Friday as they sent their Asian gold medal total soaring with another 15.

With first place out of sight, South Korea passed archrival Japan and surged into second place in the gold column, largely thanks to victory in three head-on clashes between the two nations in Japan's native sport of judo.

The Koreans, following their 10-gold haul of Thursday, also won Friday in two rifle competitions, cycling, women's field hockey, men's handball and softball tennis.

Their nine for the day gave them a total of 57 to Japan's 52. The Japanese could have kept up by sweeping the day's four judo events, but won just one. They also had golds in cycling, softball tennis and baseball — where they beat the Koreans 6-5 in the final despite a last-inning two-run home run by Korea's Lee Young-Woo.

The Chinese, held to just six golds on Thursday, beat that in track and field alone Friday, winning seven of the day's 10 events. They added two golds each in table tennis and shooting, one in cycling and three in their native fighting art of wushu.

That gave them 127 so far, well above the 100 they had predicted for the games ending Sunday.

In total medals, China had 260, Japan 189 and South Korea 164. Kazakhstan had 72, including 22 gold.

Kazakhstan won two field events Friday and Uzbekistan one.

India won the title in the south Asian sport of Kabaddi by beating Pakistan 42-20 and then Nepal 84-32. The India-Pakistan match had been rescheduled after arguing over officials' calls led to its suspension Wednesday.

While China has been famous for its women distance runners, who hold three world records, Liu Xiaomei became Asia's sprint queen by winning the 100 meters in a games record 11.27 seconds.

Liu edged 200-metre gold medalist Wang Hui-Chen of Taiwan, who finished in 11.41, still better than the old games mark of 11.50.

The only break in the Chinese women's domination at track and field Friday came when Asia's top high jumper, Svetlana Mounkova of Uzbekistan, won her event with a leap of 1.92 metres.

The 400-metre and 400-metre hurdles races both were 1-2 sweeps. Ma Yubin won the flat 400 in a games record 51.17 seconds, and Han Qing took the hurdles gold in 54.74, also a record.

China's Min Chunfeng won the women's discus with a 62.52-metre throw.

Kazakhstan had two winners in men's field events — Igor Potapovich in the pole vault, with a games record 5.65 metres, and Oleg Sakirkin in the triple jump, with a leap of 17.21 metres.

Kazakhstan's Grigory Egorov, the Olympic silver medalist in the pole vault, had to settle for second here too with 5.50.

In the battle for leading all-around athlete, Uzbekistan's Ramil Ganiev led China's Cai Min 4.242 points to

4,051 after five of the decathlon's 10 events.

One of China's new male distance runners, Sun Ripens, won the 3,000-metre steeplechase in a games record 8 minutes, 31.73 seconds. He outdistanced Saudi Arabia's S. Al-Mozzaze, who took silver in 8:33.94.

China also took the men's shot put and discus. Liu Hao sent the shot a games record 19.26 metres and Zhang Cunbiao hurled the discus 58.78 metres.

The South Koreans repeated their 1990 triumphs in women's field hockey and men's handball. They clinched the hockey gold Friday by blanking Japan 4-0, and took the handball title by beating the Japanese 26-21.

They also won the men's 4-kilometre team pursuit cycling race in a games record 4 minutes, 22.901 seconds. Kazakhstan was second in 4:23.885.

China swept the women's sprint race medals, while Japan's Toshinobu Saito won gold in the men's.

Wang Yifu won the men's air pistol shooting gold and led China to the team title. His individual score was an Asian record 688.3.

Cho Eun-Young did the same for South Korea in the women's standard rifle prone shooting event.

In table tennis, China's Wang Tao had to fight off a tough challenge from South Korea's Yoo Nam-Kyu, 24-22, 21-17, 20-22, 21-12, for the men's singles title. The women's doubles final was all-Chinese: Liu Wei and Qiao Yunping beat compatriots Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong 21-13, 9-21, 21-14.

Japan won the women's and South Korea the men's in doubles competition in softball tennis, and Asian variation of standard tennis.

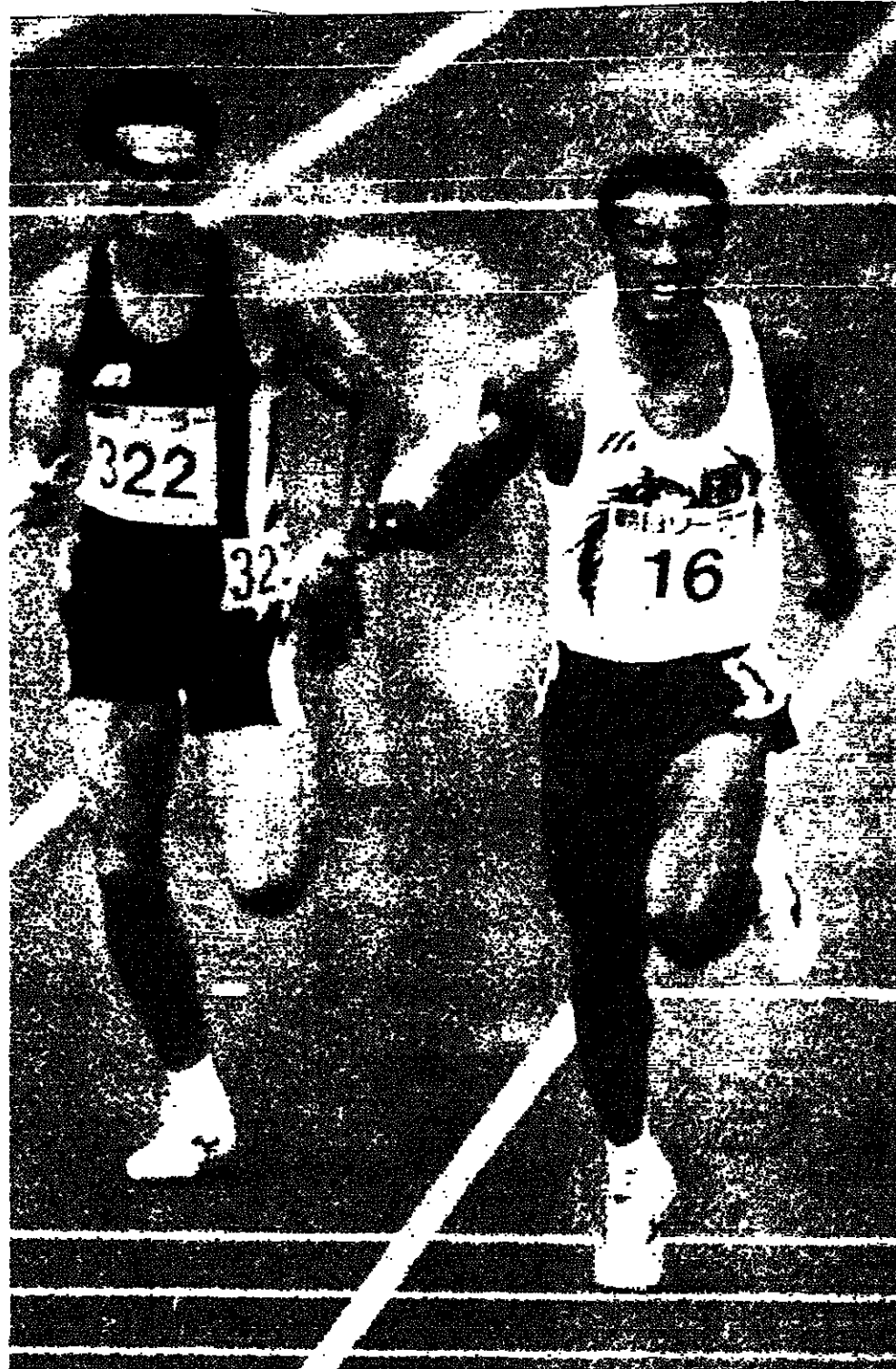
South Korea's judo winners, all against Japanese, were Hyun Sook-Hye, who dispatched Atsuko Takeda in 55 seconds in the women's 52-kilogramme class; Jung Sun-Yong, who overcame Noriko Sugawara at 56 kilogrammes, and Chung Hoon, who beat Shigeru Toyama in the men's 71-kilogramme division.

Japan's Yukimasa Nakamura won in the men's 65-kilogramme class, defeating Ivan Karaseldi of Kazakhstan.

In the 12 weight classes decided so far, South Korea has six golds, Japan five and China one. Four more judo golds were to be decided Saturday.

MEDALS TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	127	79	54	260
S. Korea	57	47	60	164
Japan	52	64	73	189
Kazakhstan	22	25	25	72
Iran	9	9	7	25
Chinese Taipei	7	12	23	42
Uzbekistan	7	9	18	34
India	4	1	15	20
Syria	3	2	7	12
Philippines	3	1	12	16
Malaysia	3	1	4	8
Kuwait	2	0	2	4
Qatar	2	0	2	4
Indonesia	1	11	11	23
Thailand	1	8	11	20
Turkmenistan	1	3	3	7
S. Arabia	1	3	5	9
Mongolia	1	2	4	7
Vietnam	1	2	0	3
Singapore	1	1	4	6
Hong Kong	0	5	7	12
Kyrgyzstan	0	4	5	9
Pakistan	0	4	5	9
Jordan	0	2	2	4
UAE	0	1	3	4
Sri Lanka	0	1	1	2
Macau	0	1	1	2
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Brunei	0	0	2	2
Nepal	0	0	2	2
Tajikistan	0	0	2	2
Burma	0	0	1	1



Cai Min (right) of China and Ramil Ganiev (left) of Uzbekistan cross the finish line of the men decathlon 100m event at the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima's Big Arch Stadium Friday. Cai won in 10.78 and Ganiev finishing second in 11.02 (AFP photo)

Organisers insist empty stadiums are full

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — The Asian Games stadiums may look empty to spectators and competitors, but organisers insisted Friday that attendances are as expected.

Barely a quarter of the seats in main athletics stadium were taken up on Friday. And even with heavy discounts for school children, 10 per cent of the 50,000 tickets for Sunday's gala closing ceremony at the Big Arch Stadium remain on the market.

"We are struggling hard. We will still be selling tickets on the final day," admitted Sumihisa Kato, general affairs director for the Hiroshima Asian Games Organizing Committee (HAGOC).

Kato predicted the games would just reach its attendance target of 1.1 million people over the two weeks. "As fine weather is forecast for the weekend, we can expect big crowds at Big Arch," he said.

But HAGOC are including the estimated 300,000 people who lined the streets, without paying, for the marathon last Sunday.

Up to Thursday, the organisers said the attendance total stood at 833,850 spectators, including the marathon watchers.

The swimming events at the 1,700-seat "Big Wave" swimming pool were filled last week to see China's women world champions. But many observers have

commented on how stadiums spread across the Hiroshima region had been virtually empty for many other events. Some days, 10,000 seater stadiums have only a few dozen people watching. The athletics has never been more than half full.

On Thursday, the 19 venues had 48,394 spectators. But that was boosted by 14,278 people at the baseball stadium.

Organisers insist that by including the marathon followers, there is a daily average of 64,000 spectators compared with a peak seating capacity of 84,000.

Furuhashi Hirohisa, the HAGOC head and Japan's Olympic Committee chief, has admitted that it has been difficult attracting crowds and sponsorship to the first Asian Games in a non-capital city.

Japan's slow economic recovery slashed promised sponsorship by more than a half to 4.7 billion yen (\$47 million). HAGOC had total operational costs of 28.9 billion yen (\$290 million).

Kato believed though that gate proceeds from the 34-sport games would "more or

less" reach the 2.1 billion yen target.

But the figures pale before the total investment of \$15 billion in building 21 new sports facilities and public works, including an airport and an 18km (12 mile) tram line. All was spent as part of city's dream to rise from the ashes of its A-bomb past to become an international convention city.

Japan's shock 3-2 loss to South Korea in the football quarter-finals was the latest blow to the games accountants.

The football was one of the trump cards for the organisers as they sought to tempt spectators the 900 kilometres (560 miles) from Tokyo.

Only 44 people have booked for 300 places on one 635-dollar two-day package tour to see the football final, final track and field events and the closing ceremony.

"If Japan made it to the final, there would have been more," said Tsunahisa Yokoo, a spokesman for the Japan Travel Bureau which sent 2,000 Japanese on package tours to the World Cup football finals in July.

China embarrassed by new drug scandal

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — China's Olympic Committee chief promised a clampdown on drug cheats Friday after confirming that the national women's discus champion had failed a drug test.

Qiu Qiaoping, who recorded the world's fourth-best discus throw in Hiroshima in June, failed a test for steroids five days before the Asian Games. Wei Jizhong, secretary general of the Chinese Olympic Committee, told AFP.

The 22-year-old discus thrower was one of 17 athletes tested in Beijing on Sept. 28. Ma Junren's world record-breaking runners were also asked to give samples.

Wei said the sports authorities decided to drop Qiu even though the result of her B sample analysis was not known. The 92kg (202 pounds) athlete threw 66.06m in Hiroshima at an earlier meeting and was favourite for the Asian Games gold medal.

Wei declared that the central sports administration in Beijing faced an enormous task trying to stamp out drug use by unscrupulous coaches in the provinces.

"China is a big country. It's difficult to control everything happening in far-flung parts of the country," he said.

"But we are prepared to embark on a campaign to inform and educate people about drugs and to expose anybody using drugs in order to clear China's name," he said.

"Some parts of the media will use this case to accuse China of using drugs systematically. We are upset but this is an individual case and she bears the responsibility."

"When athletes from Great Britain and the United States test positive the country is not blamed."

He dismissed the argument that in a closed society like China drugs could only be obtained through official channels. "You can get drugs just as easily as anywhere in the world," he said.

He promised that any coach or doctor found guilty of supplying Qiu with drugs would be liable to the same sanctions, as the International

Olympic Committee (IOC) called for in Paris in August. "Any officials will be punished," he said.

The British Athletics Federation is now embroiled in an embarrassing legal conflict with Dianne Modahl after sending the 800m runner home from the Commonwealth Games in Canada in August before her B sample had been tested.

"After the B sample result we will have an investigation and decide what action to take. We may impose heavier sanctions than those imposed by the IAAF."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) suspends athletes who test positive for steroids for four years. "A heavier suspension would be tantamount to a life ban," an IAAF official said.

IAAF President Primo Nebiolo said from Copenhagen: "You cannot blacken China's name because one athlete tests positive."

"There might be a problem but I'm confident the Chinese federation can deal with this."

He said the recent swoop on Chinese athletes did not mean the IAAF had singled out China.

"We conduct random tests throughout the world and China's record is in line with other federation members."

China's recent string of world record performances in athletics and swimming set off new speculation that drugs was behind the success.

Eighteen Western coaches at the world swimming championships in Rome called on the swimming federation FINA to implement more frequent random tests after China won 12 of 16 women's events.

And last month Swimming World, a leading authority on the sport, said it would no longer consider Chinese competitors for its swimmer of the year award.

China's swimmers were tested twice during these games where they won every women's race and half the men's events.

Swimming head coach Chen Yunpeng said they accepted the tests as the price to pay for success.

Kazakhs are blonde, blue-eyed, but in Asia

HIROSHIMA (R) — Some of them may be tall, blond and blue-eyed, but officials of Kazakhstan said Friday the country belonged to Asia and it was here to stay.

The Kazakhs, competing for the first time at an Asian Games along with four other former Soviet Asian republics, have won 20 gold medals so far to put them in fourth place on the medals table.

Their success has caused some resentment among several smaller countries.

Thailand is one of them, complaining that their athletes were being deprived of even the third place bronze medals they once picked up.

They may have had more cause to complain on Friday, when their 100 metres woman hurdler was pushed

into third place by two Kazakhs.

"It is too bad if some small countries complain about us. We are geographically in Asia and so we aim to stay," Amancha Akpaev, president of the Kazakhstan's National Olympic Committee, told Reuters.

Akpaev said Kazakhstan's good showing was due to sending to Hiroshima its good athletes even though their season had ended.

"We artificially extended our athletics season to send them here," he said.

The long season has not been popular with athletes.

Pole vault winner, Igor Potapovich, said he had to be persuaded into coming to Hiroshima by the sports officials back in Kazakhstan.

9-year-old athlete will sit on sidelines

HIROSHIMA (R) — The youngest athlete at the Asian Games, a nine-year-old wushu competitor from Mongolia, will be quietly absent from the competition when it begins Wednesday.

Instead, pint-sized Bayasgalan Bulgan, a darling of the games, will be cheering her teammates from the bench.

Bulgan, from the capital Ulan Bator, is still a novice in the sport and is not quite ready for competition.

She was included in the team for "experience."

"She's not bad," said her coach Nyamdavaa Bulgan, who is no relation to Bayasgalan. "She's only been practising for one year."

Wushu, a generic name for a group of Chinese martial arts, was first introduced at the Beijing Asian Games in 1990.

Like the floor competition in gymnastics, athletes are scored on technical merit on required moves.

The event has three medal categories: Taijiquan, Nanquan and Changquan, a combination of three disciplines, two of which use weapons such as swords and spears as props.

The most common of the categories is Taijiquan, a popular morning exercise in Asia, using breathing and natural circular movements.

Pig-tailed Bulgan, wearing sweat pants with a big Mickey Mouse patch, easily stands out among her teammates and the rest of the Athletes here but she is in no way treated special.

"It's no big deal for her to be here," said Brdenesuren Ganbat, a fellow teammate, himself only 15 years old. "She's having a good time and she's here just to observe."

During training sessions, Bulgan can be found in a corner off the main floor area in front of a mirror checking her Taijiquan moves as her teammates practise.

Sixteen countries are competing in the event, with the Chinese athletes favoured to win medals.

ADDENDUM TO TENDER FOR
THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO
THE NEW FACILITIES OF EDUCATION AT THREE
UNIVERSITIES IN JORDAN
International Competitive Bidding (ICB)

This is to advise interested individuals, companies and/or their agents that the application materials for the above mentioned bids have been amended. Therefore, please note the followings:

- The amended application materials should be collected from the following respective universities for final submissions between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 12, 1994 to Wednesday, October 19, 1994:
 - The University of Jordan in Amman.
 - The liaison office of Yarmouk University located at the Higher Council For Science and Technology building inside the campus of the Royal Scientific Society.
 - The liaison office of Mu'tah University located at Samir Rifai St. — Jabal Amman.
- Closing date for the bid submission has been extended from 12:00 noon of Wednesday Nov. 2, 1994 to 12:00 noon of Tuesday Nov. 22, 1994.

Issued by:

Oct. 12, 1994

The University of Jordan
The Yarmouk University
The Mu'tah University

Jordan Petroleum Refinery
Company Ltd.
Amman-Jordan

Tender invitation for prequalification
and bidding No. 146/94

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces tender invitation No. 146/94 for building the waste heat boiler in platform unit No. 11 to recover the waste heat from the hot fuel gases of the unit heaters to produce 17 tonnes of steam per hour at 20 bar. This project includes the design, supply of materials and equipment to Acqaba port or to site commissioning, test run and supervision and the accompanying facilities as well as all civil, mechanical and electrical works related to the new installations on the basis of (C & F lump sum price) construction and erection at the site shall be carried out by (JOPETROL) under supervision of the contractor (manufacturer).

Contractors who possess experience in this field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12:00 hrs. on 24/11/1994.

Prequalification documents should include the following:

- Financial capability of the contractor, financial references are to be provided.
- Technical capability of the contractor including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
- Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor. Full names and addresses of firms and details of projects including contract cost and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available.

Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at the First Circle-Jabal Amman against non-refundable JD (300) per set not later than 5/12/1994.

Offers should be submitted by qualified contractors to the company's head office not later than 12:00 hrs. Sunday 29/11/1994. Chairman Board of Directors Abdul Majeed Shoman



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SOCIO - ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHANGES IN SELECTED ARAB COUNTRIES

Dr. Volker perthes, stiftung wissenschaft und politik, ebenhausen/München
THE FREEDOM OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR LIMITS

Dr. Moh'd Khair Mustafa, University of Jordan and Mr. Arnold Hottinger
Sunday, 16 October 1994, University of Jordan, Abdul hamid Sharaf Hall, Faculty of Economics
Language : English

NBA goes overseas for preseason games

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Three years ago, Mike Smith and his teammates on the Spanish club Joventut Badalona came within two points of beating Magic Johnson and the Los Angeles Lakers at the McDonald's Open in Paris.

It would have been a historic upset since no National Basketball Association (NBA) team has ever lost to a foreign club.

Smith gets a second chance Oct. 20, when the Golden State Warriors play Joventut, the European club champions at the Olympic Pavilion in the Barcelona suburb of Badalona. It is the same arena where the U.S. national team dominated the world at the 1992 Olympics.

"Maybe it could happen. I'd still like to be part of history," said Smith, a 31-year-old Brooklyn, N.Y., native. "It would be an upset, a

long shot, but that's OK with me. This is mostly entertainment, fun for the fans — but we'll be out to win and get a place in history."

The pre-season game is one of three in Europe — and one of an NBA record 11 outside the United States this fall.

The Warriors play the Charlotte Hornets Oct. 18 in Paris, then travel south for the Badalona game. The European tour concludes Oct. 21 when Charlotte visits defending Italian League champion Benetton Treviso.

While those two NBA clubs are busy in Europe, nine other NBA teams will play pre-season games in Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada. The NBA regular season opener will be Nov. 5 in Yokohama, Japan, between the Los Angeles Clippers and Portland Trailblazers, followed by a second

game between the two teams the next day.

"This is the most extensive and largest variety of teams and countries in our history. I would expect we can count on even more in the future," said Ray Lalande, the NBA's European spokesman.

Lalande said the 1995 McDonald's — held every two years — would feature for the first time the NBA champion against an unspecified number of national club champions. He said Britain was the likely site, with Spain also possible.

Smith, a 6-foot-5 (1.96-metre) forward, knows Joventut is no match on paper for Don Nelson's Warriors. Golden State was the NBA's most improved team last season. Its lineup includes rookie of the year Chris Webber, Chris Mullin and Tim Hardaway.

The Spanish club, led by

Smith and Spanish international Jordi Villacampa and Rafael Jofresa, has started sluggishly under new coach Pedro Martinez.

"We're the defending European champions and there's pressure on us — but it also should give us more motivation," Smith said. "So far, the motivation seems to be working for the other teams. Maybe we'll have motivation to play up to another level against Golden State."

For Mullin, it's his first return to Badalona since playing for the U.S. national team at the Olympics. He's the healthiest he's been in two seasons, and the European trip could provide a glimpse of just how good the Warriors will be.

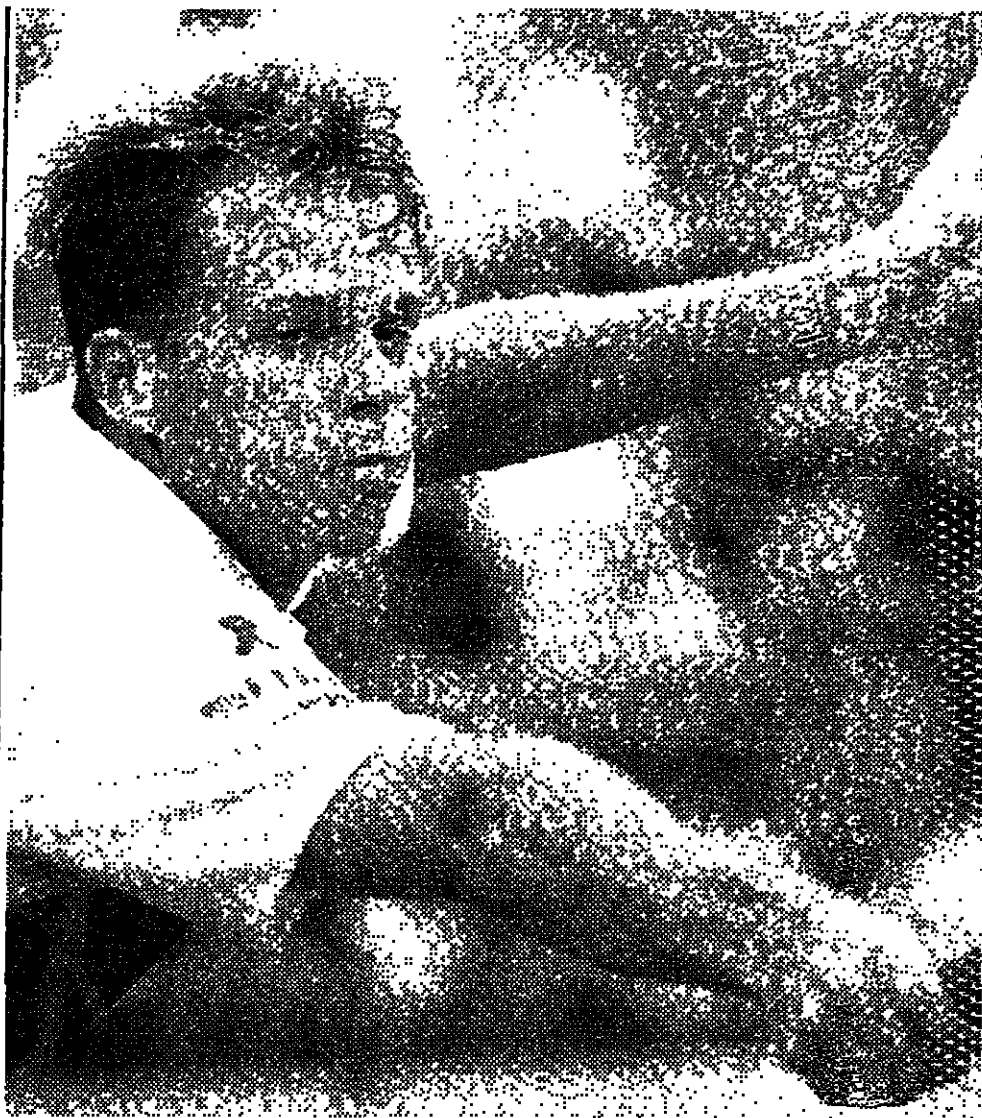
"I'm really looking forward to it, not just getting back in the GYM where we won the gold medal but also

to walking around Barcelona," Mullin said in a telephone interview. "It will bring back great memories. Smith, meanwhile, is playing in another basketball world."

He was a small-college star at the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg but was overlooked in the NBA draft. He's in his seventh season in Spain, where he has started out a career and started a family.

He and his Spanish wife, Claudia Garcia, have a 2-year-old daughter, Marlene. Smith has dual U.S.-Spanish nationality, an apartment in Barcelona and a house in Miami where he said his family plans to settle.

"My No. 1 dream would have been a career in the NBA," Smith said. "But I did reach a second dream, playing in Europe and winning the championship here."



Stefan Edberg

Ivanisevic and Edberg to meet in Seiko semifinals

TOKYO (R) — Top seed Goran Ivanisevic set up a semifinal against double Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg when the two men enjoyed straight-sets wins at the Seiko Super Tennis tournament Friday.

American Michael Chang, the 1989 French Open champion, had a similarly easy win to join Ivanisevic and Edberg in the last four, where he will meet 10th seed Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands.

World number two Ivanisevic served well and returned impeccably to outgun Dutch ninth seed Richard Krajicek 7-6 7-6.

The Croatian showed no sign the poor form that dealt him humiliating first-round

exit at the U.S. Open and last week's Australian Indoor tournament in Sydney.

"I feel my shots every day are getting better, I'm getting more confident," said Ivanisevic who was taken to deuce on his serve only once.

"So after this week I'm probably going to play my best tennis if I continue like this."

Edberg, looking for his third title here after winning in 1987 and 1991, had less of a battle outwitting unseeded New Zealander Brett Steven — who beat Boris Becker in the second round — 6-4 6-3.

The victory kept alive the

Swede's hopes of qualifying for the season-ending \$3 million-dollar World Championships in Frankfurt in November.

Sixth seed Chang unleashed an aggressive attacking game to oust last year's defeated finalist Todd Martin of the United States 6-3 7-6.

Chang took advantage of his opponent's numerous unforced errors — particularly in the tie-break where Martin netted a couple of easy shots to give away the match.

Eltingh advanced with a 6-2 7-6 win over American Jonathan Stark.

Schumacher, Hill vie for world championship

JEREZ, Spain (AFP) — The shoot-out for the 1994 world drivers' championship starts at Sunday's Grand Prix of Europe here with German Michael Schumacher and Briton Damon Hill only one point apart with three races to go.

"There's going to be a lot of drama in the next three races," said Hill, whose teammate for the rest of the season will be 1992 world champion Nigel Mansell. But Schumacher was quietly confident. "I think it will be okay," he said. "I can probably win the next three races."

The first Grand Prix at Jerez since 1990 replaces the cancelled Argentina GP. Two corners have been changed for extra safety on the twisty, physically demanding track, including the area where Briton Martin Donnelly was critically injured in qualifying in 1990.

Schumacher has won seven

races this season and taken one second place for 76 points. Hill's five wins, with four seconds and a sixth, gives him 75. No other driver can now challenge them.

Mistakes by Schumacher or his Benetton Ford team saw the German star disqualified from a win and a second, and banned from two more races. Hill won all four of those events.

Mansell joins Hill in the Williams-Renault team for the last three races after finishing the U.S. IndyCar circuit. His first job will be to help Hill, 34, defeat Schumacher, 25, for the title.

But Mansell has a further agenda to prove that at 41 and after two years in Indycars, he merits a full 1995 season with Williams.

Hill showed no signs of intimidation from the presence of Mansell. "I have reason to believe he will be there to help me win the championship," Hill said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Club president kills player

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — The president of a Brazilian soccer club shot and killed a team player who was owed three months back pay and asked to be put on waivers, published reports said Thursday. Gilson Raimundo Veija, president of the CSE club in the remote city of Palmeira Dos Indios, 1,400 miles (2,260 kilometres) north-east of Rio, shot Cassio Barros da Silva Wednesday in a bar during a quarrel. Da Silva, a 25-year-old midfielder, approached Veija in the bar shortly after midnight and demanded to be released from the club, the Rio newspaper Jornal do Brasil reported. Veija left the bar, returned later with a revolver and opened fire, the newspaper said. Da Silva later died at the hospital from the gunshot wound. Police officials in Alagoas state could not be reached by telephone for comment.

Finnish coach quits

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Tommy Lindholm, coach of the Finnish national soccer team, quit his job Thursday following his team's disastrous start in the European Championship. Lindholm, 47, made his decision during a flight from Athens to Helsinki. In championship qualifying for the 1996 finals in England, Finland lost 2-0 at home to Scotland in September and was outplayed by Greece Wednesday, going down 4-0. Lindholm took over in December 1992 from Jukka Vakkila and compiled a 5-12-7 record with the national team, losing four in a row before quitting. His record in world or European qualifiers was 2-6-1.

Vasquez conserves title

PARIS (AP) — Wilfredo Vasquez of Puerto Rico retained his World Boxing Association super bantamweight title Thursday with a unanimous decision over challenger Juan Polo-Perez of Colombia. The three judges scored it for Vasquez 115-113, 116-111 and 116-112, though many spectators hooted at what they thought was Vasquez' less than deserving performance. Vasquez, 33, landed a good night in the second round, but Polo-Perez, 30, got in a good series of uppercuts at the end. It was largely uneventful through the seventh round, with Vasquez advancing on Polo-Perez but generally unable to puncture the Colombian's defence. Vasquez looked solid for most of round 8, but was taken to the canvas by a right uppercut. He came back strongly, but Polo-Perez blocked the toughest attacks and seemed to be getting a second wind as the bout ended. But the judges appeared to be more convinced by the methodical style of Vasquez, who won his eighth defence of his title in the boot in Lellois-Perret, adjoining Paris to the west.

Germany rules out Olympic bid

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Still reeling from Berlin's much-criticised effort to secure the 2000 Summer Olympics, the country's top Olympic official ruled out Thursday a German candidacy for the next summer games. The National Olympic Committee issued a report pinning Berlin's failure on too little support from the country's sports organisations and inadequate German representation on international bodies. There was also underwhelming support from Berliners, some of whom mounted an anti-Olympic campaign. Committee President Walther Troeger said a bid for the 2004 Summer Games was out of the question. But he would not rule out trying to win the Winter Games that will be held two years later, Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAYANNA HIRSH
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ACES IN THEIR PLACES

East-West vulnerable North
deals.

NORTH
♠ 8
♥ 9 5
♦ Q J 10 8 6
♣ Q J 9 6

EAST
♠ 6 5
♥ 8 7 6
♦ 9 7 5 4 3
♣ A 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 9 7 4
♥ A Q 10 4 3 2
♦ 2
♣ 4

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♣.
If you held the West hand and, defending against four hearts, had to make two early discards, which is the last card you would part with? You probably made a wrong choice! Follow the play.

South's club cue-bid promised a major two-suiter. North first made a waiting bid then tried three no trump, but South was too distribu-

tional to accept a no-trump contract and corrected to four hearts.
Sitting East-West were the brilliant British internationalists Jeremy Flint and Jonathan Canino. Canino found the best lead of a trump. Declarer won and elected to take an immediate spade ruff by cashing the king and ace and ruffing a spade. West carefully discarded a club.

Thanks to the fortunate lie of the trumps it might seem that all declarer could still lose was a trick in each side suit, but things didn't quite work out that way. Declarer had to return to hand to draw trumps, so the queen of diamonds was led from dummy. East won and did not make the mistake of trying to cash another diamond. Instead, Flint placed the queen of spades on the table and West found the sensational discard of the ace of clubs (Is that by any chance the card you elected to retain?)

The rest of the defense was easy. East cashed the king of clubs and continued the suit and, whether declarer ruffed high, low or not at all, the defenders were assured the seven of trumps would be promoted to the setting trick.

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● Electric adjustable Seats
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● Speed Control
● Air Condition
● Alloy wheels
● Leather seats
● Airbag
● etc.
Duty Unpaid

PAKISTANI HANDICRAFTS

The Pakistan pavilion at the Amman International Trade Fair, which will be held from October 17, till 21, 1994 at Amman International Motor Show/Airport Road, will be displaying the following items: (the timing will be from 11.00 a.m. to 21.00 p.m. everyday, on 17 Oct. it will be from 1200 hrs).
- Wooden handicrafts
- Leather products
- Textiles (all kinds), ready made garments, terry towels, made ups.
- Pakistani handicrafts of all types
- Carpets.
Jordanian importers may like to see the above items and place orders for their import.
For details please contact the Embassy of Pakistan, Jabal Weibdeh (Amman)
Tel. No: 622787 & 624680 & 638352

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	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
	Yusra, Safiyah Al Omarl and Mahmoud Hamidah... in Al Muhajer (Immigrant) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Farouk Fishawi & Hanan Shawqi ... in: EITHER YOU LOVE OR LEAVE Shows at 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "1" SPEED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" CRUSH Shows: 3:30, 5:15		Presents: Children's theatre "MAZZOUK AND THE MAGIC LAMP" at 10 a.m. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275		Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"		Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.	

Majali not to seek new confidence vote

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali does not plan to approach Parliament for a vote of confidence when the legislature is convened in a new session later this month, according to Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jamhori.

The minister said in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Constitution does not stipulate that the government should win a vote of confidence after each reshuffle, noting that the government had won confidence of the Lower House when it presented its policy statement.

Parliament begins its annual session Oct. 22. It will be formally opened by His Majesty King Hussein with a speech from the throne or by the prime minister or a cabinet member deputising for the King, said Mr. Jamhori.

The government will neither interfere in any form or way nor will it exercise its influence on any deputy in the process of electing a House Speaker, he said.

He said Cabinet members who are also members of parliament were free to cast their vote in the election of a speaker in line with the policies of his or her political

group.

At least three deputies have declared their intention to run for the speakership post. They are Abdul Razzak Tubeshat, Dr. Abdullah Akaiheh and Saad Hayel Srouf.

The incumbent speaker, Mr. Taher Al Masri, is reported to have refrained from nominating himself as candidate for the post but reports speculate that he might do so later on.

Sheikh Jamhori noted that the peace process was bound to come up in Parliament, which has the right to scrutinise any topic and deal with any draft laws. During extraordinary sessions Parliament is confined to discuss only those topics listed in the Royal decree convening it.

Meanwhile, the National Action Front (NAF) has announced that it will support Deputy Srouf in the race for the speakership of the House.

NAF spokesman Taha Al Hababha, who is member of the House, said the NAF's 16 deputies will unanimously vote for Mr. Srouf.

According to Al Ra'i, the front has been negotiating with the other blocs over nominating one of its members to run as deputy speaker.

Meanwhile, Speaker Masri has said that Jordan's democratic experience was very old, but that it was practised in its modern form only since 1989 when the role of the legislative authority emerged prominently.

At a meeting with the Jubilee School's students participating in a "promising leadership programme," Mr. Masri said the Lower House was not the only aspect of democracy.

"It is one of an integral host of requirements for democracy... and to enhance democracy in Jordan work on converting the Kingdom into democratic institutions should start and political pluralism should be promoted through activating the role of political parties and widening their public basis," Mr. Masri said.

He said current parliamentary bylaws do not provide the proper mechanisms for having serious cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities, adding that a new law was proposed.

Mr. Masri said that he was against having deputies occupying ministerial posts, asserting that this would not allow members of the two authorities to carry out their roles efficiently.



CHARITY MARCH: Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid on Friday leads a charity march organised by the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) to raise funds for Cerebral Palsy projects and establish new centres in different parts of the Kingdom. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Prince Ra'd said there were 7,800 cases of cerebral palsy in Jordan. He called for intensified efforts to attend to their needs for rehabilitation. The march started from the CPF premises in Mecca Street and ended at the Hussein Sports City (Petra photo)

Jordan to figure high in new EU Mideast aid plan

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Commission will before the end of the year present the foreign ministers council of the European Union (EU) with a formal proposal to earmark \$600 million for economic assistance to countries involved in the peace process, French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajole said over the weekend.

The French diplomat told the Jordan Times that Jordan will be the first country to benefit from the European initiative due to the dramatic progress achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the negotiations.

Syria and Lebanon, he said, which are boycotting the multinational peace talks in which Europe is involved, would not qualify to benefit from the assistance programme at this point.

But the EU will allocate similar funds to Syria and Lebanon once progress is registered in their peace talks with Israel, Mr. Bajole said.

Mr. Bajole said the EU initiative, which was proposed by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, will be discussed at a regular meeting of the EU foreign ministers council before the end of the year and indications are it will be approved.

Mr. Bajole said the economic assistance, which will mostly be in the form of soft loans, sets no ceiling on the amount of money that Jordan can draw through it but stipu-

lates that the loans will have to be project based.

To benefit from the programme, Jordan will have to present the EU with proposals for projects and the loan will be released once the EU approves the proposed projects, he said.

Mr. Bajole said projects that can be financed through the EU initiative will have to serve regional development such as roads, railways and other projects similar to those discussed in the multinational talks.

The EU initiative has the double objective of encouraging Jordan for the progress it has achieved in its peace talks with Israel as well as reasserting the European role in the region, the French diplomat said.

"We have a feeling that Europe, which has been put aside in the peace talks, could be also put aside in economic matters," Mr. Bajole said, adding that "we deem it in the interest of Jordan that Europe participates in economic projects."

Stressing that the European role has been marginalised in the peace process after Madrid, Mr. Bajole spoke of a European fear that the U.S. will strengthen its foothold in the region at the expense of the continent which has had a traditional and historical presence in the area.

"There is a fear that the U.S. (achievements in the region) will exceed in peace what (the U.S.) achieved after the (Gulf) war," Mr. Bajole said in reference to the

gains the U.S. has made in the Gulf market after the Gulf war to the disadvantage of Europe.

"In some Gulf countries, there is no room for Europe now, it is a pity that the peace will do the same (in the rest of the Middle East)," said Mr. Bajole.

Mr. Bajole said the EU will now be pushing towards implementing projects discussed in the multilateral talks, noting that feasibility studies for some of these projects have already been commissioned.

Unlike the bilateral talks which are sponsored by the U.S., the multilaterals have failed to convince people of the region that something solid could come out of them.

Europe's interest in activating these talks, diplomatic sources said, is aimed at changing the perception of these talks and thus reasserting the European role in the region.

Addressing the Casablanca economic conference, which will be held by the end of this month, Mr. Bajole expected little to emerge from it in terms of direct and immediate economic projects but said it will "give a psychological and political impetus for economic development in the area."

More than 50 countries and tens of financial and development organisations will take part in the Casablanca summit, which will be the largest such forum in the history of the region.

Hurd ends visit; talks described as positive

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd left Amman early Friday after an overnight visit during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein on the Gulf situation and the Middle East peace process as well as bilateral relations.

A British diplomat described Mr. Hurd's talks here as "very good" and said the discussions made "good progress."

"The talks covered the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East peace process," said the diplomat, who did not want to be identified. "The King briefed Mr. Hurd on his meetings (Wednesday night) with (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Hurd briefed the King on the outcome of his talks with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members."

Mr. Hurd, who arrived here from Saudi Arabia, was seeking to "ensure that the (1990) situation does not occur again," said the British diplomat referring to the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Hurd's talks here revealed that "Jordan and the United Kingdom share identical views on the Gulf situation," the diplomat added.

In Damascus, where he was received upon arrival by his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharaa, Mr. Hurd told reporters that London's relations with Damascus were "improving quite fast." He did not elaborate.

After a four-year hiatus, Britain restored diplomatic relations with Syria in 1990 when President Hafez Al Assad backed the U.S.-led international alliance against Iraq.

The ties were ruptured in 1986 after Syria was alleged to have played a role in the attempted bombing of an Israeli airliner leaving from London's Heathrow airport.

The foreign secretary flew to Istanbul after his brief stopover in Damascus.

Meanwhile, Sir Paul Newall, the lord mayor of London, left Amman Friday after a four-day visit during which he was received by the King and other senior officials. During his stay, Mr. Newall also addressed the Jordanian-British Society.

After completing his official programme, Mr. Newall visited the Greco-Roman ruins at Jerash.

Modern art finally allowed at White House... but kept outside

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Modern art has finally been "allowed" in the White House, but only at the instigation of first lady Hillary Clinton who arranged for a dozen sculptures to be displayed in an outside garden. "Sculpture has been one of my favorite art forms since I was a young girl because of what it spoke to me," Mrs. Clinton told art-lovers and artists gathered in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, while the White House decor is dominated by paintings from the 19th century and earlier, the garden will boast an Alexander Calder mobile, a nude by Gaston Lachaise and works by Louise Nevelson, George Segal, Judith Shea and others. The first lady said she hoped that contemporary art would soon go on permanent display at the White House.

Thatcher's daughter-in-law seeking divorce

LONDON (AFP) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's daughter-in-law Diane is seeking to divorce her husband Mark Thatcher and demanding £5 million (\$7.5 million) in alimony, the Evening Standard reported Wednesday. The couple who live in Dallas, Texas, have two children, five-year-old Michael and 18-month-old Amanda. The report comes after a British newspaper said Sunday that Mark Thatcher earned £12 million (\$19 million) as intermediary in a 1985 British arms sale to Saudi Arabia initiated by his mother. Mark Thatcher denied the report. Lady Thatcher left Bournemouth where she made a brief appearance at the Conservative Party congress Wednesday for Dallas where she intends to celebrate her 69th birthday. Mark Thatcher married U.S.-born Diane Burdett, now 24, in 1987. She is the daughter of a rich car salesman from Houston, Texas. The Evening Standard report said Diane was seeking custody of her children in the divorce case.

Duke of York to visit Argentina

LONDON (AFP) — Prince Andrew, the Duke of York who flew helicopters from the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible during the Falklands War in 1982 is to visit Argentina in November, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said Wednesday. It will be the second time a top royal has gone to Argentina since the end of the war with Britain over the South Atlantic islands, which Argentina calls the Malvinas. Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, went there in 1992 in his capacity as president of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Since April last year, Prince Andrew has been commanding the minesweeper HMS Cordemore. In August he was presented to the captain of the Argentine training ship Libertad on a visit to the southern English naval port of Dartmouth. His estranged wife Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, has been to Argentina to see her mother Susan Barrantes, who married Argentine polo player Hector Barrantes after divorcing the duchess's father, Major Ron Ferguson.

2 new dinosaur species discovered

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. researchers have discovered remains of two previously unknown dinosaur species which died about 130 million years ago in the present-day Sahara Desert, according to the magazine Science. The first of the dinosaurs identified by the University of Chicago team, dubbed "Afroraptor abakensis," measured about 12 metres in length and was carnivorous, according to findings by Paul Sereno to be published in Friday's edition of the magazine. The second, which has yet to receive a scientific name, was a plant eater that measured about 20 metres long. It was a sauropod, a reptile of the second era of a long neck and massive body.

Jordan does not expect problems implementing accords with PNA

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan does not expect any problems in advancing the agreements the Kingdom reached with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in three days of talks here last week. Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Friday.

Dr. Anani's comments came against the backdrop of media scepticism that the accords might face the same fate as previous agreements reached between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — stalled because of non-ratification by the PLO leadership.

"The (PNA) delegates did not express any reservations over any part of the agreements," said Dr. Anani, one of the Jordanian ministers who attended the meetings. "As such, we do not expect any problems in the ratification of the accords" by the PLO-led PNA leadership, he told the Jordan Times.

The agreements reached mostly cover banking and monetary affairs, trade and exchange of goods, cooperation in transport, including civil aviation and coordination of positions on the issue of displaced persons at a meeting with Israel.

In the context of the accord on banking and monetary affairs, the two sides decided that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) would help the PNA supervise commercial banks in the West Bank and Gaza under regulations drawn up by the PNA.

Dr. Anani explained that it was agreed that the Palestinians would draw up their own regulations under the Concordat and Basic agreements on banking that determine the role of the regula-

tions of the mother country of the banks and of the host country. In the Jordanian-Palestinian context, this would apply to Jordanian commercial banks now operating in the West Bank and Gaza.

The PNA agreed that the Jordanian dinar would have the continued status as the main legal tender in the occupied territories. "They have income in other currencies such as (Israeli) shekels," Dr. Anani said, noting that designating the dinar as "the sole legal tender" would pose problems for the PNA.

According to other delegates, Jordan also secured a PNA pledge not to undertake any unilateral move to undermine the stability of the dinar and this pledge would be formulated into a clear-cut official position that would be released by the PNA and CBJ.

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, who led the Jordanian delegation to the talks, said Wednesday that the dinar would be used as a means for payment in all official dealings of the PNA. This is believed also to include PNA taxation.

The Kingdom and the Palestinians agreed on free trade except for agriculture produce. Both sides have similar produce, and this could lead to a clash of interest, Dr. Anani said, indicating that this issue needed more discussions.

"All except agricultural produce would be treated as local products and will carry the same rate of taxation as locally levied, but there will not be any customs duties," Dr. Anani said.

The PNA agreed to honour a Jordanian-Israeli accord which cleared the way for up to \$30 million in Jordanian exports to the West Bank outside the self-rule areas this

year, Dr. Anani said. The practical aspect of this accord means treating the products as covered in the April agreement between the Palestinians and Israel on economic cooperation.

If the ceiling of \$30 million is not reached before the end of the year, the agreement would be renewed, Dr. Anani said.

It marked a climbdown from the PNA position that it did not feel bound by the Israeli-Jordanian accord on the exports since it was not a party to that agreement. That PNA position obviously overlooked the Jordanian option to adopt the same stand in relation to the autonomy accord between the PLO and Israel.

It was also agreed during the meetings that the two sides would cooperate in ensuring the easy transport and transit of each other's products through their territory and sea and air outlets.

In civil aviation, Jordan undertook to offer its expertise to setting up a Palestinian airline and offer training to Palestinian staff. Amman was designated as the central point for all aircrafts in and out of the Palestinian territories, and Palestinian aircrafts will be registered in Jordan.

The agreement on displaced persons calls for the two sides to work out a joint paper and then consult with Egypt ahead of an expanded four-party meeting with Israel as called for in the Declaration of Principles signed by the PLO and Israel in September 1993.

"It will be more than coordination," Dr. Anani said. "On the issue of Jerusalem, the PNA side is expected to present a detailed paper outlining its position on the holy city this week."

King-Rabin talks part of contacts

(Continued from page 1)
ly on the water issue, as both sides said they were interested in constructing two dams on the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers.

Rabin and Peres were believed to have been accompanied in the talks by Elyakim Rubinstein, chief negotiator with Jordan.

Apart from discussing the peace process, there is speculation that Mr. Rabin and

King Hussein also discussed the tension in the Gulf.

Israel and Jordan have agreed that the electricity networks between the Red Sea ports of Eilat and Aqaba are to be linked once the necessary material has been bought.

Technical studies by the two countries' electricity companies have been completed and the work will take several months.

Legal experts study papers

(Continued from page 1)
the whole package can be assessed fairly," an official source said.

"These papers cannot be seen separately from a peace package that would address all the details on all three core issues of territories, water as well as security," the source said.

"It is not inaccurate to say that the negotiations are not over vis-a-vis the core issues because the two sides have yet to agree on a common draft that will ensure a complete peace package that is acceptable," another source said.

Three share Nobel prize

(Continued from page 1)

Kare Kristiansen, a member of the prize committee, said later in a news conference that he submitted his resignation Friday because he believed Mr. Arafat's background "made him unworthy."

"During the debates on the award of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, the committee ended up with a split decision," Mr. Kristiansen said. "I out of respect for the prize and for my own deep-rooted conviction could not accept (Arafat) as worthy of the prize."

"His (Arafat's) past is too tainted with violence, terrorism and bloodshed and his future too unpredictable to make him a Nobel Peace Prize winner," Mr. Kristiansen added.

"I have no right to forgive Arafat for his violent acts," he said. "He's a terrorist leader."

Mr. Kristiansen, a former Norwegian oil minister, was one of the five members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee which is chosen by parliament for a six-year mandate.

U.S., Russia clash over Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Gulf war coalition that drove Iraqi invaders out of Kuwait in 1991, nevertheless sent a frigate to the Gulf when the Iraqi troop movements began.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright retorted angrily that Mr. Leotard's remarks were "ill-informed and counter-productive" and gave "comfort to a brutal dictator."

Rebutting the French hint of ulterior motives, she replied: "while we are talking about politics... there are countries who have commercial interests with Iraq and I think that one ought to look into that and consider reactions in that guise."

Iraq called on France to end its cooperation with the United States and Britain in monitoring no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq. The call was made by Saad Kassem Hammudi, of the ruling Baath Party's foreign affairs department, in an editorial headlined "Thank

You France" in the party newspaper Al Thawra.

Mr. Hammudi also praised France's "objective attitude" towards Iraq, after it opposed a U.S. proposal to widen the demilitarised zone along the Iraq-Kuwait border.

"We call on France to stop immediately its participation in monitoring the no-fly zones," Mr. Hammudi said.

The head of the U.N. commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction said on Thursday he still believed six months were needed to test a system for long-term monitoring of its arms potential, but that could change in the light of experience.

Testing of the system, to ensure Iraq does not reacquire forbidden weapons, is the last technical hurdle before Baghdad can hope for any easing of sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

But all council members concur that Iraq must also

acknowledge unequivocally Kuwait's independence and U.N.-demarcated borders before any move can be expected towards lifting sanctions.

"We have repeatedly told the Security Council in our reporting that our assessment is it should be a six-month period to help us to make a judgement that this (long-term monitoring) is functioning well," Rolf Ekeus told reporters after briefing the council.

"Now we have started the testing. We are in a completely new situation... now we will see if this assessment is correct."

The Security Council has so far set no time period for testing the monitoring system.

Mr. Ekeus said the latest information from his inspectors in Iraq was that they were "continuing operations without any diminishing of activity and without obstacles, up to today, at least... So far the work is going on."